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LD2807124088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--Iranian forces "crushed" the resistance of Iraqi troops and their Mojahedin-e Khalq "mercenaries" in the Eslamabad-e Gharb area 27-28 July, IRNA announced, adding that the "remnants" of the enemy forces are surrounded and heavy fighting is continuing.

The enemy had earlier regrouped its forces and "once again penetrated the city of Eslamabad-e Gharb," according to a 27 July communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Meanwhile, Iraqi aircraft dropped chemical bombs on a residential area near Bakhtaran, IRNA stated.

The Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA) claimed that its forces killed or wounded "over 30,000" Iranian Government troops in the operations around Eslamabad-e Gharb, destroying several IRGC divisions, INA reported. The Iranian authorities are "overwhelmed by panic" and have sent reinforcements to prevent the INLA from advancing toward Bakhtaran, according to an INLA spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio. The INLA also announced that its air defenses downed two Iranian F-4 aircraft and one Cobra helicopter, INA noted.

As for the position of Iraqi Army groups, a military spokesman cited by INA 28 July announced that Iraqi units would withdraw from another Iranian village at 0800 GMT 28 July. A communique carried by Baghdad radio the previous day denied Iranian claims of successes in the southern sector, stating that Iraq's III Corps repulsed an Iranian attack and inflicted "heavy losses."

The communique also reported further Iraqi air strikes on Iranian military targets, including a Hawk missile battery, and announced that Iraq's II and III Corps captured 12,207 prisoners during their recent operations inside Iran.

The Iranian operational commander in the southern front stated in a Tehran television interview that Iranian combatants have thrown the Iraqis back across the borders in the area around Khorramshahr, but he warned that Iraq intends to carry out a new attack in Khuzestan "soon." Iran expects that Iraq will continue its "aggressive operations, especially to the north of the Ahvaz area," he said.

In another development, President 'Ali Khamene'i spoke to clergymen at the battlefront, stressing the importance of their role in boosting morale, Tehran radio noted. IRNA reported that Iranians have mobilized on an "unprecedented" level to help defend the country.

Diplomatic Developments—If Iran refuses the Iraqi call for direct talks this will prove it is "not serious" in seeking peace, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated in remarks cited by INA following talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held three meetings with Perez de Cuellar, Tehran radio reported, noting that the latter said it will henceforth be the "duty" of both countries to cooperate with him in seeking to implement Resolution 598.

In remarks at a press conference cited by IRNA, Velayati stated that despite Iran's "close cooperation" with Perez de Cuellar, Iraq has embarked on a "full-scale invasion" of Iranian territory in open defiance of the secretary general's call for restraint. Velayati also said he has briefed UN officials on Iraq's "extensive use of lethal toxic gases."

In Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told Tehran radio that the world now realizes "what a criminal Saddam is" and it will give Iran "the right to fight such a criminal until he has been destroyed and punished." He viewed the recent Soviet offer to host talks between Iran and Iraq as an attempt by the USSR to give an appearance of impartiality.

However, not only are the Soviets not impartial, he said, but they have also "encouraged" Iraq to commit "crimes." Soviet arms supplies to Iraq have included around 1,000 aircraft, he stated, as well as 5,000 tanks and 300 long-range missiles "in the past 6 months."

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak asserted that the United States is willing to meet with "less well-known PLO figures," indicating that such talks could take place during U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's upcoming visit to Cairo and Amman, MENA stated. Mubarak, in an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, expressed Egypt's willingness to host such a meeting should Jordan decline.

On relations with Israel, Mubarak said he would hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir only if they can achieve "prior agreement on basic points." Discussing the recent "massive uproar" in Israel and the United States over Arab missile acquisitions, he said Egypt builds missiles for defensive purposes only.

Mubarak said he does not believe Egypt's attempt to defy a U.S. exportation ban on carbon plates will negatively affect relations. "We have not stolen American technology," he claimed, and called the incident a "simple matter."

Israel

A "senior political source" cited by Jerusalem radio said he does not believe the United States will violate its undertaking not to hold contacts with the PLO. The planned meeting between Richard Murphy and Palestinians next month should not be seen as a change in U.S. policy, he contended.

In another development, Jerusalem television reported that the Israeli authorities are taking measures to prevent foreign diplomatic delegations from transferring money from the PLO to uprising activists in the occupied territories. Foreign delegations have recently supplied these activists with small sums of money, the television said.

On the security situation in the territories, IDF radio noted that a 16-year-old youth was wounded when the IDF opened fire to disperse demonstrators in Gaza.

Jordan

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i revealed in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there will be "decisive developments" in relations with the PLO and a "rearrangement" of the country's "domestic situation" next week, WAKH reported.

Al-Rifa'i said the move will be in line with Jordan's "eagerness to project the Palestinian identity" and Palestinian representation through the PLO.

An "informed source" cited by Radio Monte Carlo said the House of Representatives will be "dissolved" as confirmation that Jordan does not intend to represent the West Bank Palestinians or negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

Libyan Weapons Connections

The Greek Public Order Minister announced that weapons used in the terrorist attack on the "City of Poros" were part of arms shipments to Libya from Belgium and Italy, Athens radio reported.

The minister said the discovery "in no way" connects the Libyan Government to the attack, the radio added.

Police are investigating two Libyans and two Italians caught with 325 kg of explosives "destined for Libya," according to Rome radio.

Afghanistan

A new political party, The Union of God's Supporters, was "given permission to form" by presidential decree, Kabul radio announced. The party is required "to act in line" with the political parties law, the radio added.

"Extremists" continued shelling residential areas of Kabul and Jalalabad, killing eight persons, Kabul and Moscow radios reported.

Mujahidin rebels ambushed a Soviet military base at Shindand 18 July, killing a Soviet officer and taking three prisoners, according to rebel sources cited by AFP.

Chad

Egypt To Offer Journalism, Language Training

AB2807074588 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Chad-Egypt joint commission met in Cairo from 18 to 22 July. The Chadian delegation was led by Foreign Affairs Minister Gouara Lassou, while his Egyptian counterpart, Butrus Ghali, led his country's delegation. The Cairo meeting was a continuation of a meeting held in Ndjamena last year.

During his visit, Minister Lassou held discussions with some members of the Egyptian Government, particularly the information minister. It was learned that Egypt is prepared to train Chadians in journalism and to organize other short- and medium-term training for them in French and Arabic. The joint commission also discussed other issues, such as health, national education, tourism, [words indistinct], and animal husbandry. The Chadian delegation returned home satisfied with the result.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Regional Issues

NC2707141788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has disclosed a U.S. proposal for a meeting between U.S. officials and Palestinians from within and outside the occupied territories. He has expressed Egypt's willingness, in agreement with Jordan, to host such a meeting.

In a comprehensive interview with the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published Friday [29 July], President Mubarak stressed the need for Arab and Palestinian parties to agree on a united formula for an international Middle East peace conference. He noted that without agreement among the various Palestinian factions there is no hope of convening the conference.

President Mubarak also expressed willingness to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir should he announce a positive step toward the holding of an international conference, without obstructionist preconditions.

On the Tabah issue, President Mubarak asserted that the Americans know we will not accept mediation with regard to Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah. He emphasized that it will be absolutely impossible for Israel to obtain new rights under a new treaty using the pretext of facilitating passage to Tabah.

Referring to the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab League, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt will not return unless it does so with its dignity intact. He added: We are not excessively eager to attend a summit, whether extraordinary or regular.

Concerning the prospects for his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, President Mubarak stated that there is nothing to prevent a meeting with Gorbachev, although there has been no agreement on a visit. He described Egyptian-Soviet relations as "very good."

Commenting on Egyptian-Iranian relations in light of Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war, President Mubarak said there is nothing to prevent the establishment of a direct dialogue between Cairo and Tehran, provided there is sincerity and Tehran respects the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

On domestic issues, President Mubarak said he does not intend to reshuffle his Cabinet in the near future. He pointed out that the government of Dr 'Atif Sidqi is working hard to carry out its programs and must be given the chance to do so.

Asked if Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, is expected to bring any new ideas during his upcoming visits to Cairo and Amman, President Mubarak said: It seems the Americans want to ascertain our views regarding a possible meeting between them and Palestinians living inside or outside [the occupied territories]. The Americans have proposed such a meeting in Cairo or Amman.

President Mubarak said he had asked Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to contact Amman immediately to ensure that there will be no disparity of opinions between Cairo and Amman on this issue.

President Mubarak said that if Amman agreed to arrange the meeting, that would be fine. However, if King Husayn finds it difficult to hold the meeting in Jordan, we would be ready, with his consent, to host the meeting in Cairo.

Mubarak was asked what the Americans mean when referring to Palestinians from the outside. He said these are PLO members who do not live in the occupied land, adding that he believes the Americans are now ready to meet with some less well-known PLO figures.

President Mubarak was asked about the prospects for holding an international Middle East peace conference during a time of intransigence in Israel, which is locked in a confrontation with the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Mubarak said: The prospects would be worse if the Arabs failed to agree on a single formula for holding the conference, and even more so if the seven Palestinian groups [not further specified] failed to agree on such a formula. It would be very hard, Mubarak noted, to discuss the prospects for holding the conference while the seven Palestinian groups are at odds regarding the conference.

My worst fear, President Mubarak said, is that Israel will announce that it now approves of holding the conference. He added: Such a move is unlikely because of political maneuvering during the Israeli elections, but let me tell you this: It would be "funny and pathetic" if the Israelis said they approved of the conference while the Arabs and Palestinians were still divided over the issue.

President Mubarak also said in the interview with AL-MUSAWWAR: If the Palestinians want an international conference leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, they must declare their views to the world clearly and without ambiguity, so that everyone will realize there is only one Palestinian voice speaking for the cause.

He added: "We have frequently advised them to accept a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation so that we may be able, first of all, to regain the land. Then agreement could be reached over the future of this land in an Arab-Arab framework. They insist, however, on a separate Palestinian delegation, which Israel rejects." President Mubarak noted that although the days and months are passing, the position on this specific issue has not changed.

President Mubarak praised PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, describing him as "the most moderate Palestinian leader and the one who possesses the greatest understanding of the ramifications of these issues." He said that the problem lies in the fact that others are "putting spikes in 'Arafat's wheels."

Regarding the Arab world's anxiety regarding the prospects of success for U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Dukakis, who has announced that he would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, President Mubarak affirmed that Dukakis' position as U.S. president would differ from that as a presidential candidate, because "he whose hand is in the water is different from him whose hand is in the fire." He noted that the views Dukakis has declared on the Palestinian issue and which we reject are part of his election campaign and intended to win Jewish votes.

Asked whether he still clings to his refusal to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir, Presient Mubarak said: "I would be willing to meet with Shamir if he had something new to declare, such as a new, positive step toward convening an international Middle East peace conference, without preconditions that would obstruct it."

President Mubarak added: "This is my condition for meeting with Shamir. It would be totally meaningless for us to meet without prior agreement on basic points which we could then develop and declare. We reject, however, a meeting at which we would simply exchange views, because that would mean merely that I would receive him with fanfare and open arms." President Mubarak continued: "I do not embrace anyone unless we are agreed on a clear solution to the issue."

Answering a question on U.S. mediation in the Tabah issue at a time when this matter is moving toward the final stages of international arbitration, President Mubarak said: "The arbitration process is continuing. If the Americans imagine that we can, through their mediation, reach a solution outside the arbitration framework, they also know that we will not accept mediation with regard to sovereignty over Egyptian territory. In matters of sovereignty there can be no mediation, controversy, or idle talk."

President Mubarak added that the Americans also know that it will be "absolutely impossible" for Israel to obtain new rights under a new treaty using the pretext of facilitating passage to Tabah.

He added that the entry and departure of Israelis from the Tabah Hotel can be organized through a "consular arrangement" such as that used all over the world. A treaty, however, is rejected from the outset.

President Mubarak said that should the U.S. mediation concentrate on the fate of the hotel, we have made it clear that we would like to buy it, but we refuse to share it because it is built on Egyptian soil. President Mubarak said: There is no danger in U.S. mediation now that arbitration on Tabah is in its final stages. Nobody can take anything from us against our will, and we have made our positions clear to all.

Mubarak was asked about the needless and massive uproar in the United States and Israel over the presence of medium-range surface-to-surface missiles in some Arab countries and the allegatiaons that this compromises Israel's security and regional stability. He answered: I do not know why the Americans are so taken aback by the presence of missiles, which some Arab countries have had for quite some time now. How is it that this is so astonishing to them, when they know that Israel has nuclear-equipped missiles and they say nothing about it? I ask the Americans: Why do you assume that missiles owned by any Arab country are pointed at Israel?

Israel, President Mubarak noted, has missiles with longer ranges which can be fitted with nuclear charges, but it wants to impose its control over every Arab country that obtains missiles.

Concerning Egypt's position on the possession of medium-range missiles, President Mubarak said that Egypt is not manufacturing these missiles in order to strike at anyone but only to defend its borders. He said Egypt has no desire to attack anyone or wage war against anyone, but it is wise not to stand still while others develop weapons that are more lethal than nonnuclear medium-range missiles.

Mubarak told AL-MUSAWWAR: We do not want to attack anyone, nor do we want war. We want peace, because we believe war has never resolved and will never resolve any outstanding dispute. Conflicts can come to a reasonable and acceptable end only at the negotiating

table. At this point, President Mubarak pointed out that a superpower as mighty as the United States had to sit and talk with the Vietnamese following a devastating and prolonged war. He also referred to the current negotiations among African frontline nations and South Africa, noting that the parties involved found it prudent to sit together and talk.

Mubarak said: When the Africans asked to meet in Cairo with South Africa to resolve the problems between South Africa and Angola, I contacted the OAU chairman, several leaders of the frontline states, and Washington and Moscow. Everybody expressed enthusiasm for such a meeting in Cairo in the hope that it would lessen tensions in southern Africa and bring about a solution acceptable to all the parties concerned.

Answering a question about the effect the uproar raised by U.S. media recently over the Egyptian attempt to acquire carbon plates might have on Egyptian-U.S. relations, President Mubarak said: "The issue is extremely simple. The whole matter concerns no more than 20 carbon plates, which are used in numerous industries."

Mubarak added: We have not stolen American technology, nor have we spied on their institutions or stolen their documents. We did not do what others have done. Nevertheless, U.S. media have raised a great uproar over a "simple matter." He pointed out that these carbon plates are sold openly on the U.S. market. Apparently, however, their exportation is banned, he said.

Mubarak said: "This is the issue. I do not believe it will affect our mutual relationship negatively." [passage indistinct]

His excellency noted in this respect that the new relationship between the Americans and the Soviets has gone beyond the limits of the old detente. He said that these relations are developing daily, and their agreement is clear and certain on numerous issues, including the need to resolve regional crises through understanding and negotiations.

President Mubarak declared: "Hence, I do not find in my meeting with Gorbachev anything that would cause any unease." In this respect the president praised Gorbachev's new policies aimed at improving Soviet life. He said he is following these developments with interest, because they represent a year of renewal and revival of all economic and democratic aspects of Soviet life.

Concerning expectations for a possible visit to China this autumn, President Mubarak said that the Chinese had invited him to visit Beijing 2 years ago. He noted, however, that he had not yet made any preparations for such a visit because he has been occupied with several domestic issues.

Regarding Egyptian-Algerian relations, President Mubarak said: "There is nothing new in our position toward Algeria. We have discerned recently that they want our foreign minister to explain to them the new justifications which would persuade them to restore relations with Egypt, so that Algeria could broach the matter with Libya and Syria." President Mubarak continued: "Who would accept this?" He explained that he did not agree to 'Abd al-Majid's traveling to Algeria, although the Algerians said the visit was designed to restore relations between the two countries.

He said: I objected because I saw it as a precondition for the restoration of relations and because I doubted that Algeria would restore relations, even if our foreign minister went there. Mubarak added: "My expectations proved correct."

President Mubarak stressed in this regard that Egypt wants nothing from Algeria, Libya, or Syria, irrespective of the personal respect he feels for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian Paresident Chadli Bendjedid, despite the actions of their two governments.

Regarding Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said: We do not want anything from Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi other than good neighborliness.

Answering a question about Al-Qadhdhafi's recent announcement that he intends to ease restrictions on the travel of Libyans abroad, that he is ready to accept the call of some Libyan opposition members, and that he is ready to give a new margin for movement by the private sector, President Mubarak said: "This will be good for Al-Qadhdhafi, if it is true. We hope with all our hearts that the Libyan people will find an outlet to freedom and enjoy democracy and supremacy of the law."

Asked if he thinks that Iran's decision to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to its war with Iraq, would prepare the atmosphere for direct dialogue between Cairo and Tehran to repair Egyptian-Iranian relations, President Mubarak said: "We must wait—not rush matters—until sincerity is confirmed. For our part, there is nothing to prevent the establishment of dialogue between Cairo and Tehran, if sincerity exists and if Tehran respects the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries."

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, President Mubarak also dealt with several national action issues. He affirmed his attachment to democracy, arising from his profound conviction that it will benefit Egypt. He called on all parties and political forces to share seriously in shouldering the responsibility of national action, warning at the same time against one-upmanship when dealing with the supreme interests of the country.

President Mubarak said he will meet with the leaders of the Egyptian opposition parties when logic and sense dominate their actions, because just meeting with them is not important. What matters is for such a meeting to result in agreement, without one-upmanship.

Regarding reports of a Cabinet reshuffle before next fall, President Mubarak affirmed that he has absolutely no intention of reshuffling the cabinet. He pointed out that Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government and the ministers are to be given every chance to implement the programs they have drawn up, unless circumstances require emergency intervention.

Regarding the capital investment companies' law issued recently, President Mubarak affirmed that this law is balanced and protects the rights of the investors. It will enable these companies to better invest their revenues. He noted that the government held many meetings with the owners of these companies before the law was issued. He added that this law consists of three basic points:

1. It regulates the deposit of funds in domestic and foreign banks so everyone can know where these funds are;

2. It provides for management of projects according to the companies' law. In other words, there should be real and not fictitious general meetings; and

3. It regulates the spheres for investment of these funds and safeguards the right of these companies to invest their funds in any agricultural or industrial production projects.

He said that the government did not intervene directly until matters in some of these companies had reached a serious point. Had the government waited longer, the investors would not have been able to retain their rights, and the government would have been accused of concealing what was happening in these companies.

Regarding the current negotiations with the IMF, President Mubarak expressed the belief that the IMF now fully understands the Egyptian viewpoint, which espouses gradual economic reform. He said: There is no sense in taking economic steps beyond Egypt's capability and the Egyptians' capacity. Problems would arise, and we would find ourselves forced to retreat from our course of economic reform. The people might not accept measures beyond their capacity. He said that should he decide he needs to tour Europe to convince these countries of the Egyptian viewpoint, he will make such a tour in the interest of the state.

At the conclusion of his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, President Mubarak affirmed that the Egyptian economic reform program will continue because it represents a primary Egyptian interest which cannot be ignored.

Abu Ghazalah Returns From Italy, Meets Mubarak
NC2707170788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, following the latter's return from Italy.

Ghali on 'Cold Peace' With Israel, Shultz Plan
NC2807074488 Cairo MENA in English 0710 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi July 28 (MENA)—Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali said Egyptian-Israeli relations witness at present an atmosphere of "cold peace" or "aborted peace" due to Israel's intransigence in settling the Palestinian cause which Egypt considers a cause of destiny. This behaviour on the part of Israel affirms that it is not serious in its claims of peace, he said.

Prospects of the success of the U.S. thoughts which Secretary of State George Shultz carries in his shuttle tours in the Middle East region, in their present form, are very dim as the remaining days of President Ronald Reagan in office do not permit putting pressure to bear on any party.

In an interview with "AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper issued here, Dr Ghali said Egypt is keen on maintaining the peace process, keeping the Palestinian question in the spotlight and drumming up a wide-scale world support for it.

Dr. Ghali told "AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper that the Palestinian uprising created new facts in the Arab-Israeli conflict which warrants the adoption of a joint Arab action to boost the Palestinian upheaval and maintain its continuity.

Dr. Ghali ruled out the possibility of obtaining, in any negotiations, the Palestinians' right for self-determination in the absence of the Palestinians.

Egypt's return to the Arab League is linked with a major issue, namely that of rearranging the Arab home, he remarked.

The Arab League should underline elements of its strength and weakness so as to reach an effective and fruitful Arab solidarity, Dr Ghali said.

U.S. Smuggling Report Coverup for 'Diplomat Spy'
NC2807112188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Press reports in Cairo have disclosed that the U.S. Administration's recent announcement about the smuggling to Egypt of radioactive material used in military industries is only an attempt to cover up the activities of a U.S. diplomat spy in Egypt. The opposition newspaper

AL-SHA'B reported yesterday that the U.S. spy had carried out suspicious movements in Egypt and tried to recruit certain personalities to work for the CIA.

Briefs

Polish Ambassador Dies

Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—The plane carrying the body of the Polish ambassador in Cairo left here early this morning for Warsaw. The ambassador passed away on Tuesday. Ambassadors of the East Bloc states in Cairo were present at the airport. [Text] [*NC2807080188 Cairo MENA in English 0720 GMT 28 Jul 88*]

Sudan

Arab Group Demands Release of 5 Members

JN2707193188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] In a statement distributed in Beirut today, the Arab Fedayeen Cells Organization [Munazzamat Khalaya al-Fida'iyin al-'Arab] warned the Sudanese Government against harming five members of this underground organization who are currently being tried in Khartoum on charges of killing seven persons, including five Britons, last May. The organization called for the release of its members because their action was prompted by political and security considerations and was not aimed against Sudan and its people but against the dens of foreign spies.

It will be recalled that during their trial the five detainees, who carried false Lebanese passports, stressed they were Palestinians.

Defense Minister on Cairo Visit, South

JN2007074288 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Jul 88 p 23

[Interview with Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil by Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu Husayn] What were the results of your Cairo visit?

[Khalil] First, the visit took place within the framework of the fraternal relations which exist between the two countries and the exchange of viewpoints on issues of interest to the Arab region. We discussed issues of mutual interest. A protocol for military cooperation was also signed. The protocol focuses on technical military problems and the exchange of military expertise in fields where the Sudanese Armed Forces are lacking. The protocol also sets a timetable for its implementation.

The exchange of visits between the two countries' officials is undoubtedly a sign of the success of the brotherhood charter that seeks to enhance the bilateral relationship so that it may encompass broader vistas and tackle all the issues which interest the two countries and the Arabs in general.

[Abu Husayn] Recent reports mention that Sudan is preparing to host a Libyan-Egyptian summit that will clear the atmosphere between the two countries prior to the Riyadh summit. How true are these reports?

[Khalil] This is actually being dealt with at the presidential level. During his recent visit to Libya, the chairman of the State Council submitted such an idea. We hope this proposal will produce fruitful results becasue it will have a positive impact on the region. Sudan is interested in establishing a normal relationship between Egypt and Libya.

[Abu Husayn] The Libyan Colonel calls on the Arabs to establish a unified Arab industrial base and an Arab military force, as well as an Arab nuclear weapon?

[Khalil] This call, in itself, is a positive call. Sudan has made a similar call through the Nile and Red Sea issues. Regional groupings such as the GCC and the Arab Maghreb countries have also made similar calls to protect their security and arm themselves. Large groupings face big problems. As for small groupings, their problems can be solved easily. As for Al-Qadhdhafi's ambitions, they will be left to circumstances and after clearing up relations and atmospheres. After this is achieved, the military unity for which he calls will become an easy thing to attain. [passage omitted]

[Abu Husayn] How do you explain the recent U.S. attack on the Iranian civil airliner, coming at this time in particular?

[Khalil] That was a big mistake which the United States has admitted. The attack should not have happened. However, I might consider it a serious U.S. attempt to end the war. By this I mean that since all efforts have failed to soften Iranian obstinacy, this inhuman action might underline the need to end the war and accept peace.

[Abu Husayn] What about armed struggle in the occupied territories and its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Khalil] This struggle is now the only weapon with which to apply pressure on Israel and make it accept the international conference and a peaceful solution to the problem. The struggle should continue because it is a basic factor in capturing the world's conscience. Israel's terrorist crimes against the Palestinians will actually bring about the end of Israel. I belive that an international conference in which all concerned parties participate, including the PLO, will be the ideal way to attain a just solution.

[Abu Husayn] The question that remains after Sudan recently took control of the situation in the south and declared the liberation of some villages is: What effect do these victories have on the likelihood of a political settlement to Sudan's problem?

[Khalil] These military victories are part of the efforts to stabilize the situation, enhance security in the south, and ensure the citizens' security. In the meantime, there is the political aspect that calls for a peaceful solution as expressed by the prime minister's initiative which called for forming a national popular committee to prepare for the constitutional conference in order to solve the problem and bring peace and security to all of Sudan. We hope this conference will be held this year.

[Abu Husayn] John Garang had basic conditions for his acceptance of the principle of negotiations through the above conference. Has he abandoned them?

[Khalil] Last week John Garang told world news agencies and radio stations that he had no objection to attending the constitutional conference without any conditions, but this has not reached us through official channels yet.

[Abu Husayn] It was recently reported that certain foreign elements are helping John Garang. Specifically, Israeli experts are training his forces in the south. What is Your Excellency's reply?

[Khalil] It is true. According to available information, an Israeli officer in Nairobi is helping the rebels of the south and setting up bridges of cooperation with John Garang's forces in the Equatoria Region. Those training John Garang's forces come from Cuba and some socialist countries under Soviet domination.

[Abu Husayn] Does the problem of the south come into the category of foreign interference that requires the implementation of the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defense pact, or it is a domestic problem?

[Khalil] It is a domestic problem which began in 1955. The successive governments in Sudan have not asked brothers or friends to interfere so that no opportunity would be given to the tendentious interference of other parties. We are dealing with the problem domestically and through Sudanese military pressure.

[Abu Husayn] Has time not ripened for the resumption of digging at the Jonglei canal?

[Khalil] Sudan seeks first to impose its control over the region and guarantee security so that those working in the canal can work without fear or threat from the rebels. This will continue until the guerrilla war, which is obstructing development in the region, comes to an end, especially since these gangs are positioned in the centers of development. However, work at the canal will be resumed shortly after the situation in the south has been controlled. Peace efforts can then take their course. John Garang has robbed the citizens' property and has done many things to destroy the area. He has created chaos. We stress the restoration and safety of all the areas he seized.

[Abu Husayn] What about the new Islamic laws being debated by the Council of Ministers—laws which are causing argument among the various parties?

[Khalil] The Council of Ministers is still discussing this with the aim of producing a document of coexistence and reconciliation among the various situations, cultures, religions, and creeds. Some Sudanese brothers, particularly in the south, have misunderstood these laws. They have judged things by their outward appearance although these laws will not apply Islamic penalties to the south in particular. Application will be according to creed or religion.

Those opposing these laws should acquaint themselves with all provisions of them so that they can defend their viewpoint through the Constituent Assembly. If they want to prevent the laws, they could do so because the matter is not as easy as some understand it, especially since the Sudanese Government will ask some scholars and clergymen to participate in discussing the law in the Constituent Assembly so that a solution acceptable to all conflicting parties can be reached.

[Abu Husayn] What is the Sudanese military institution's stand toward the democratic experience in Sudan?

[Khalil] The Sudanese military institution is part of the Sudanese people. It is inseparable from the Sudanese democratic institution which obeys the orders issued by an institution that is elected by the entire Sudanese people.

Defense Minister Accepts DPRK Invitation

EA2107025488 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, defense minister, met at his office in the Defense Ministry today the DPRK ambassador in Khartoum who conveyed to him an invitation from the DPRK minister of the People's Armed Forces to visit Korea. The minister accepted the invitation and the date will be fixed later. The meeting also covered ways of improving bilateral relations, particularly in connection with their Armed Forces.

The defense minister also met with the charge d'affaires of the Netherlands Embassy in Khartoum today. The envoy later said that they discussed friendly bilateral relations, particularly in the military field. The minister briefed him on the outcome of his recent visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The defense minister also met the South Korean ambassador in Khartoum today. The ambassador congratulated the defense minister on his appointment. They also discussed aspects of bilateral military activities. The ambassador praised the efforts of the Sudanese Government to achieve security and peace. He expressed the hope that these efforts will be successful.

Finance Minister Issues Report on Debts

JN2707175788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 27 (SUNA)—The Sudanese debts services, now at three billion dollars, are expected to rise to 5.567 billion dollars (five point five six seven) by the year 1990, a report prepared by the minister of finance and economic planning said.

The reports pointed out that debt services rose from 11.6 percent in 1983 to a record of 115 percent in 1986 compared to 202.8 percent for exported commercial commodities.

The report said the GNP service percentage has reached 23 percent from 1-2 percent in 1983.

The report said the debt services which were 103.5 percent in 1983 have sky rocketed to a record of 805 percent in 1985.

The report has attributed the rise to several natural and man-made causes. It cited the incompatibility of the exports income vis-a-vis the increase in the debts services, drought, the sharp fall of the raw materials against the rapid rise of the manufactured imports.

SPLA Forces Capture Government Garrison

EA2707180688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The details of the capture of Pageri enemy garrison by SPLA forces of the Owinykibul task force under the direct operational command of Captain Mathiang (Leb Yem Yeb) and the Captain Chuol (Alak) Ajak and the overall command of Alternate Commander Gilario Modi Horinyang on 14th July 1988 have emerged.

A correspondent for the Radio SPLA in the area says that 19 enemy soldiers were killed and their bodies were left on the battleground. [passage omitted]

The commander in chief and chairman SPLA/SPLM, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, congratulates officers, NCO's, and men of the Owinykibul Battalion for this great victory over the forces of sectarianism and backwardness.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Addresses New Cabinet 27 Jul

LD2707192888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the 27 July ceremony swearing in the new Cabinet at the presidential palace in Carthage—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Members of the government, ladies and gentlemen: At the beginning of this address it pleases me to express to you my warmest congratulations, and wish you every success in your responsibilities, which are entrusted to you by the people and homeland. On this occasion, I would also like to express to the ministers and secretaries of state whose government duties have now concluded, my highest appreciation and gratitude for what they have offered in the way of great services and efforts in the performance of their duties. Their government duties have ended today according to the tradition of introducing new blood, but the country has not dispensed with their efficiency and expertise, and will employ their abilities in other duties.

On this occasion, I would like to stress my commitment to keep everyone who has contributed to serving the country, even for a limited period, honored and respected, and ask you to consider an end of services at any level as a reduction in status.

The appointment of the new government is a part of the continuity and continuation of the state's work, and it is also the result of a determination to consolidate the change and introduce the necessary reforms into state structures.

Unfortunately, we believe that these structures did not follow the desired change as required. This explains the many grievances and complaints by citizens. As much as we respect and appreciate the efforts made by these structures with a view to developing their working methods, and the efforts made by public employees and those who supervise them, and as much as we are determined to protect them from all forms of abuses and irresponsible treatment, we want the administration to be able to get rid of routine, negative attitudes and to prepare itself for development and renewal as necessitated by the change.

Gentlemen, you are responsible for achieving these goals. Every one of you has full authority to take the initiative and act freely. Let every one of you have self-confidence, imagination, and ability to implement enough to put yourself at the level of responsibility.

We would like to rid the government administration of the extreme caution, and even fear and occasional worry that have marked it in the past at the earliest sign of need for initiative or decisiveness. The minister alone is responsible for his ministry. He has the complete freedom to act in managing it. However, he alone is also completely responsible for the results.

As we announce the launch of the new government in its duties, we would like to restore national enthusiasm to government work and to revive the incentive of professional and national conscience in all officials at the various offices of the state. Within this particular framework comes our invitation today to members of the government to take the oath and to commit themselves to the spirit and text of it in carrying out their duties so that they will be a source of confidence and security for their subordinates and all citizens and so that they will be good examples for other officials at various levels.

This is the brief address I wanted to give. Now I invite the members of the government to take the oath.

Kuwait

Iranian Boats Fire at Trawlers, Kill Fisherman

JN2707144888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 26 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Iranian gunboats fired at Kuwaiti trawlers that were fishing as usual in international waters north of 'Awhah the day before yesterday. Several bullets killed an Egyptian fisherman and wounded another in the hand. He was transported to Faylakah Hospital and the other fishermen were evacuated from the area.

Paper Comments on Heir Apparent's Visit to U.S.

JN1907205588 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 18 Jul 88 p 1, 23

[Editorial: "Good Impressions From Washington"]

[Text] It is enough for the U.S. Administration and Congress to gain a good impression of Kuwait as an independent state with fully independent stands to consider the visit to the United States by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, as successful and to have achieved its aims in all fields and on all levels.

After the series of Kuwait-U.S. meetings, discussions, and dialogues, members of the delegation accompanying his highness heard from U.S. officials and deputies statements that elicited pride and confidence and highlight U.S. senior officials' respect for and appreciation of Kuwait.

Its independent stands during repeated attacks against its vital facilities and the difficult experiences it has undergone, the last of which was the hijacking of the Al-Jabiriyah, were noted especially."

Members of the delegation heard words of praise that accentuate the unique cultural characteristics of a small state that is almost ideal in everything: ideal in its diplomacy, policy, moderation, style, and method of handling urgent problems and developments.

It might be difficult for any state near the front lines between two warring countries to behave as wisely and objectively as Kuwait has done, enduring wickedness and maintaining justice and faithfulness as a creed, way of life, and method of action as did Kuwait.

This is Kuwait that we saw moving in the White House, drawing the lines of international cooperation as they should be drawn, and defining friendship as it, not others, understands it. Cooperation is the way for peace, and true friendship that is based on objectivity and not playing politics is the way to maintain and promote relations.

The visit of his royal highness to Washington was an opportunity that embodied Kuwait's old and modern image, and the symbols and indications that this image projects—namely, an independent character and decisions and firm principles.

The graph of Kuwaiti-U.S. relations shows almost a fixed curve as regards the relations of cooperation, friendship, and mutual respect. On the other hand, curves of U.S. relations with countries in other regions are characterized by fluctuations and vagueness.

Perhaps the moderation and impartiality of Kuwait and its keeness on maintaining balanced and equal relations with all nations has helped glorify the Kuwaiti image in the eyes of everybody. Senior military officials in the Pentagon expressed their strong admiration of the way his highness the heir apparent presented the issue of arms sales to Kuwait.

His highness stressed that this issue was not the reason for his visit. If it were, he would not have come, the defense minister would. The defense minister is more able to determine the needs of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces for modern defensive weapons.

The visit, rather, took place at the invitation of President Reagan. It was the culmination of cooperative relations between two friendly countries, with issues and subjects of common interest that deserve dialogue and discussion, including the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war.

In a sideline meeting, a senior Pentgagon official told a member of the Kuwaiti delegation accompanying the heir apparent that his highness is characterized by presence of mind and punctuality, a notable phenomenon that indicates political discipline and cultural behaviour.

Another U.S. official said the heir apparent's talks succeeded in giving an honest picture of the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, and in determining steps of action and available channels of action to face that situation and achieve security and stability, in everybody's national interests.

Saudi Arabia

Further on Visit of Turkish Prime Minister Ozal

Holds News Conference

TA2707151388 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1405 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Jeddah (A.A.)—Premier Turgut Ozal said that Turkey which did not impose limitations on foreign investments, welcomes Arab tourist investment in the country.

In a press conference in the Al-Khamra Palace after being a pilgrim here, Premier Ozal gave account on his contacts.

Starting his words by thanking to King Fahd who had invited him here, Premier Ozal said that "during our talks, we focused on the recent developments in the Gulf."

"Turkey and Saudi Arabia share the same view in exerting efforts to establish a lasting peace in the Gulf," Premier Ozal said, adding "we believe that a peaceful settlement will contribute to the regional and global peace."

Stressing that regional peace will strengthen unity among the Muslim countries, Mr Ozal said that efforts are being exerted to improve political, economic and social relations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Answering a question about Arab investments, Premier Ozal said "we welcome all foreign investments and we do not impose any restrictions on them," adding " we would welcome especially Arab tourism investments in Turkey."

On a question about the Iran-Iraq war, Premier Ozal said that the permanent members of the United Nations and all other countries should support peace initiatives.

Answering a question on the Cyprus issue and the situation of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, Premier Ozal said "we are willing to maintain good relations and not go to war with Greece. That was why we held talks with Papandreou in Davos."

Pointing out that problems with Greece were not resolved completely yet, he added "however a step is taken."

On relations with Bulgaria, he said "we want to have good relations with Bulgaria. However, the rights of Muslims in Bulgaria should be secured."

"We await the assistance and support of the brother Muslim countries in this issue," Premier Ozal said.

Upon a question about Turkey's peace waterway project, Turgut Ozal said that this project will enable to deliver the water of Seyhan and Ceyhan rivers to Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He added that an agreement was made with a Turkish consulting firm which will prepare a feasibility report.

Premier Ozal went on to say that the project will bring peace to the region and will provide a linkage among Muslim countries.

Praises Hajj Policies

LD2707204488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1509 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 27 Jul (SPA)—Turkey has reaffirmed its position of support for and solidarity with the Kingdom in all the measures it has adopted or may adopt to safeguard the security and sanctity of the two holy mosques and to keep them away from political conflicts.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced at a news conference held today in Jeddah that his country once again reaffirms its full support for all the measures and steps adopted by the Kingdom for the sake of stability and organizing the pilgrims.

He added that his meeting with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, in Mina 2 days ago provided a good opportunity to discuss issues which concern both countries.

He pointed out that the views of the Kingdom and the Turkish Republic are identical in regard to their perception of Islamic issues and the establishment of security in the region.

The Turkish prime minister stressed the importance of bilateral relations and the two countries' continuing eagerness to promote them in order to achieve their common interests, which are a fundamental part of the two countries' common interests with the Islamic world.

He said...We have reached a joint conviction of the need to exert maximum effort to strengthen and develop cooperation between our two countries. [passage omitted]

The Turkish prime minister expressed his optimism that security and peace will be established in the Arab Gulf region and that the Iran-Iraq war will end. He said...Turkey has been, and still is, trying to achieve peace in the region. Turkey also supports UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the efforts being made by the UN secretary general in this regard.

He called for increasing the opportunities for joint investment between Turkey and the Arab world in the fields of tourism, industry, and other investment fields.

He pointed out that there has been some progress in Turkish-Greek relations, especially after his meeting with the Greek prime minister, stressing the usefulness of dialogue and peace [as received] followed by the Turkish government. He said...My visit to Greece is a beginning which we hope will be followed by further progress.

He said that his country is concerned about the issue of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria. He added that Turkey, with some Islamic countries' cooperation, has been able to make contacts with Bulgaria regarding the condition of Muslims there. He said...If any progess is made, other steps will follow.

Reportage on 'Private Visit' by Amir of Bahrain

Departs for Riyadh 27 Jul

JN2707153288 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, July 27 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah left for Riyadh this morning on a private visit to Saudi Arabia.

H.H. the amir was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini ambassador to Saudi Arabia 'Isa Muhammad al-Jamm'a' and other officials.

H.H. the amir is accompanied by Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Immigration and Passport Affairs Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Shaykh Salman ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and Chief of Amiri Court Yusuf al-Dawsari.

Received in Riyadh

JN2707154988 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Riyadh, July 27 (GNA)—H.H [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah arrived in Riyadh this morning for a private visit to Saudi Arabia.

H.H Shaykh 'Isa was received at King Khalid International Airport by Deputy Amir of Riyadh Region Prince [title as received] Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Bahraini interior minister; Shaykh Rashid ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, director of tourism at the Bahraini Information Ministry; Major Gen Muhammad ibn Ayish, director of Riyadh police; and Yusuf Ahmad 'Abdallah, Bahraini charge d'affairs in Saudi Arabia.

H.H. the amir is accompanied by a delegation including Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry assistant undersecretary for immigration and passport affairs; Muhammad ibn 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Shaykh Salman ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and the chief of the Amiri court, Yusuf Rahmah al-Dawsari.

Egyptian Minister Delivers Mubarak Message

LD2607192888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Mina, 26 Jul (SPA)—Egyptian Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, said that he delivered a private message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, from his brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

In a statement to SPA following his audience with the custodian of the two holy mosques at the royal palace in Mina today, he added that the message carried Egypt's full support for the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques in the various projects being implemented by the state for the benefit of pilgrims to God's ancient house and for the measures taken by the Kingdom for the preservation of the sanctity of the two holy mosques.

Dr Mahjub once again declared Egypt's full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields. He said that he had informed the custodian of the two holy mosques that the president and the people of Egypt are awaiting his visit to his second homeland, Egypt. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

'Abd al-Ghani Asked To Form New Cabinet

JN2807122588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Presidential Decree No 6 for 1988 dated 28 July]

[Text] The president of the Republic, after taking cognizance of the permanent Constitution and in accordance with the requirements of public interests, has decided:

Article 1: Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani shall be appointed prime minister and entrusted with forming the new Cabinet.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

[Dated] Issued at the Presidency of the Republic on 14 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 28 July 1988

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Repubic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Perez de Cuellar in New York

JN2707204988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] New York, 27 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here today.

Tariq 'Aziz told the press after the meeting that he briefed the UN secretary general about Iraq's stand on how to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the war.

Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq had called for direct talks between the Iraqi and Iranian sides, and that if Iran refuses this formula, this shows that it is not serious about peace.

'Aziz said that Iraq and the world at large have seen how the Iranian regime has rejected the UN Security Council resolution for a complete year. He referred to Khomeyni's statement that his acceptance of Resolution 598 was worse than swallowing poison. Tariq 'Aziz later met with Paulo Batista, current president of the UN Security Council, and discussed ways to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Iraq-Iran war.

Paper Cited on Importance of Direct Negotiations

JN2807073488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0556 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that Iraq seeks a cease-fire which should be a new and sincere start for genuine, comprehensive, and lasting peace, not a means to a temporary truce.

In an article today, the paper says a cease-fire is only part of one of the paragraphs of the UN Security Council resolution and will not suffice to end the war. An agreement on a date for a cease-fire should be based on full agreement between both parties, through direct negotiations, on the implementation of this resolution. The obligations of both parties should be precisely and clearly defined through this agreement, the paper says.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Unless a cease-fire agreement is part of a comprehensive and integrated agreement, it may result in aggravating the war. This is not sought by Iraq or the sincere lovers of peace. The paper continues: There must be direct negotiations to reach an integrated agreement on implementing the Security Council resolution. The obligations of both parties should be precisely and clearly defined. Moreover, a cease-fire should be based on such an integrated agreement.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that direct negotiations are the natural and logical way to implement the Security Council resolution as well as the necessary start for the peace process. The paper adds that the aspired peace is not a temporary truce but a comprehensive and lasting peace. Moreover, a cease-fire only gains importance as part of a comprehensive agreement. The latter will also prevent attempts at prevarication, inconstancy, and falsification for which the Iranian regime and its lying officials are known.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Iranian POW's Number 12,207

JN2707115688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1146 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The number of Iranian prisoners who have been evacuated until midday today reached 12,207.

A military spokesman told INA that the prisoners were evacuated from the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah IV" operations sectors and from the heroic II and III Army Corps sectors. The spokesman pointed out that the prisoners include a large number of officers of various ranks.

Communique No 3,276

JN2707165788 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 July 88

[Communique No 3,276 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. The number of Iranian POW's who have been evacuated as of midday today, Wednesday, 27 July, amounted to 12,207 from the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah VI" sectors of operations and from the heroic II and III Army Corps sectors. The prisoners include a large number of officers of various ranks.

2. The enemy this morning tried to push a number of its scoundrels in an attempt to attack our forward units in the heroic III Army Corps sector. Our fighters replied with intensive fire from various types of weapons. They inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors, while the rest of them fled.

3. Our heroic Air Force continued their activities against enemy units. They inflicted heavy losses on the enemies of our country in personnel, weapons, and vehicles. Our planes also attacked a surface-to-air Hawk missile battery east of Karun, as well as an enemy headquarters. Our planes destroyed their targets. After flying 205 combat missions, our hawks returned with their planes safely, praise be to God.

4. The knights of helicopter gunships carried out 73 combat missions today to destroy enemy units. They inflicted important losses on the filthy aggressors. The knights then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

5. Our maritime observation posts spotted 15 enemy boats attempting to approach one of our naval vessels. Our gunboats confronted them and clashed with them using various weapons. With God's help, they managed to sink and destroy four enemy boats. The rest of the enemy boats fled. God bless the brave men of the Navy. God be praised for His aid.

6. At 0818 [0418 GMT] this morning, an enemy F-5 plane attempted to penetrate our international borders in the III Army Corps sector. Our antiaircraft men in the sector confronted and downed it with God's help. It was seen falling in flames inside enemy territory. God bless our antiaircraft men in the heroic III Army Corps sector.

7. Five infantry positions, two heavy machineguns, three gun emplacements, and two observation posts were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Two of the scoundrels were killed, six machinegun emplacements were destroyed, and one vehicle was set ablaze in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Comand, 27 July 1988

Statement on Withdrawal

JN2807092988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 28 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In conformity with our commitments announced in Communique No 3,273 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 July 1988 regarding withdrawal from the Iranian territories occupied by our units in accordance with the procedures and arrangements of withdrawal, our units will complete withdrawal from the Iranian village of Sar Ney at 1200 [0800 GMT] today.

[Dated] 28 July 1988

INLA Communique Claims Downing

JN2707142888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1404 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] London, 27 Jul (INA)—The ground defenses of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] today downed two Iranian Phantom Planes and one Cobra helicopter between Eslamabad and Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

An INLA General Command comunique distributed by the office of the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in London this afternoon announced that the planes were downed while they were flying over areas liberated by the INLA forces in Eslamabad-e Gharb.

The communique explained that in their major offensive the day before yesterday, a number of INLA divisions inflicted heavy losses on the Khomeyni forces and their miltiary equipment and liberated the cities of Eslamabad and Karand.

Over 30,000 Losses Inflicted

JN2707174388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1716 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] London, 27 Jul (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] forces have inflicted heavy losses on the Iranian forces in the course of the "Eternal Light" operations. These losses amount to over 30,000 killed or wounded.

A communique by the INLA General Command distributed by the office of the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in London this afternoon said that its forces completely destroyed a number of Khomeyni Guard Corps Divisions and neutralized others. The communique said that the bodies of the dead litter the battlefield.

'Several' Units Wiped Out

JN2807052988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] A spokesman for the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] has said the Iranian authorities are overwhelmed by panic. These authorities are doing their best to dispatch forces to the battlefront to halt the advance of the INLA fighters toward the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran], in western Iran.

In a statement to REUTER, he added that the INLA forces wiped out several Khomeyni Guard divisions as well as other forces in the fighting which has been raging for the past 2 days. These forces include the 27th, 25th 35th, and the 8th Divisions, in addition to the 71st Brigade of the Iranian police. He explained that the INLA forces also wiped out several Iranian police units dispatched from Tehran to reinforce the Iranian forces. This took place during the clash on the Eslamabad-Kermanshah road.

'Source' Sees No Change in U.S. Policy on PLO

TA2807044688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] A senior political source in Jerusalem said last night he does not believe that the United States will violate the U.S. law banning contacts with the PLO. The source told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that the U.S. Administration continues to support King Husayn as the main option for the peace process and believes that the planned meeting between Richard Murphy and Palestinians next month should not be seen as a change in U.S. policy.

Peres Says Change 'Theoretical'

TA2807120388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Let us now move on to remarks by U.S. diplomat Richard Murphy, who told our Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that when he next visits the Middle East, he will indeed meet with Palestinian representatives, although, he emphasized, they would not be senior PLO members and the meeting would fall within the parameters set by the administration. Shim'on Peres, foreign minister and vice prime minister, spoke today to our correspondent Hagay Hitron while touring Rishon LeZiyyon a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I believe Murphy has made similar comments in the past. This is nothing new. He said he does not intend to meet with known PLO members.

[Hitron] He said, however, that talking is not negotiating. Is this difference cosmetic or significant? In your opinion, can the Americans really talk to PLO members?

[Peres] From my point of view, this is merely a difference in precedent [hevdel taqdimi]; in other words, he has said as much before. What I do not know is the difference between talking and negotiating. They are not meeting for coffee, are they?

[Hitron] Are you saying that Israel has to protest this erosion in the U.S. stand lest this precedent be repeated?

[Peres] So far it has been a theoretical change. Nothing has actually happened. [end recording]

UK Official Denies Reports of 'Low Ebb' in Ties

TA2807110488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Excerpts] In Britain, the head of the diplomatic service this morning assured the Israeli ambassador in London that there was no foundation to press reports that Anglo-Israeli relations were at a low ebb. Press speculation on problems between the two countries had been rekindled by reports of Israel's decision to withdraw five alleged Mosad intelligence agents last week. Jerry Lewis reports from London:

[Begin recording] This morning's INDEPENDENT newspaper carried a detailed report, quoting diplomatic sources, asserting that relations between Britain and Israel are as bad as they've ever been following British action against Israeli intelligence agents in London. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Office told The Voice of Israel this morning that they never comment on security matters, but it is reliably understood that no Israelis have been asked to leave Britain in recent weeks.

The Israeli ambassador, Yehuda Avner, discussed press reports with Sir Patrick Wright, head of the British diplomatic service, earlier today. Sir Patrick Wright expressed regret at the article's content and indicated that there was no foundation to such press speculations. According to Mr Avner, Sir Patrick also reaffirmed the spirit of good relations between Britain and Israel. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Cars Firebombed

TA2507101588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jul 88 p A2

[Report by Rahamim Ya'aqov]

[Text] Last night at 2315 two firebombs were thrown at Israeli vehicles driving past the mosque in the village of 'Azzun on the Qalqilyah-Nabulus road. They ignited on the road. A search conducted immediately after the incident uncovered another firebomb ready for use near the mosque. Another firebomb was thrown at 2130 last night at an Ari'el resident's vehicle at the entrance to the settlement. No one was hurt.

Strike Declared

TA2707162988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpt] A 16-year-old resident of the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza was wounded in the leg by IDF soldiers' gunfire when a demonstration in his neighborhood was dispersed this afternoon. The wounded youth was taken to the Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. Defense sources told our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv that the wounded was one of those inciting the riot in the neighborhood.

A general commercial and traffic strike was declared for today by Pamphlet No 22 published in the territories. Minor disturbances have been registered today in Gaza, Khan Yunus, and the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. [passage omitted]

Shooting Investigation Completed

TA2707174088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The investigation into the shooting in the (Dahiyat al-Barid) neighborhood near Ramallah, in which teenager Nidal Rabadi was killed about 1 week ago, has been completed. Apparently, two soldiers and the secretary of the Pesagot settlement were involved in the shooting. Following an intensive investigation, launched immediately after the incident, the investigators, aided by the Egged bus company security chief, located the bus on which the shooters rode.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the vehicle in question is Bus No 170, which was heading to the settlement of Pesagot, and was pelted with a barrage of stones near (Dahiyat al-Barid), creating panic among the passengers. Pesagot secretary Shlomo Filber and two soldiers got off the bus and pursued the stone throwers. Filber later stated that he fired one shot in the air from his handgun, while the soldiers fired from their weapons. Yesterday Filber was detained, but was released on bail this morning. His reconstruction of the incident for police investigators indicated that he was not within handgun-range of the youth. The police therefore tend to believe that the youth was shot by the soldiers.

Buses Stoned; No Casualties

TA2807043788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Three buses traveling near the 'Ayn Hamad bridge on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway were stoned last night. There were no injuries, but the buses' windshields were smashed.

Diplomats Said Transferring Funds for 'Uprising'

TA2707193588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign delegations, including diplomatic delegations, have transferred money from the PLO to activists of the uprising in the territories. These delegations have recently visited the territories and supplied these activists with small sums of money in dinars and dollars. This was learned by our correspondent Victor Nahmias.

In reply to our correspondent's question, defense sources said that various steps have already been taken to prevent this phenomenon from occurring. Our correspondent was also told that the fact that the PLO employs such means to transfer sums lower than $10,000 indicates the organization's financial distress and its inability to funnel larger sums to finance the uprising.

Editor Sees No Harm in New Jordanian Policy

TA2807051888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The editor of the pro-Jordanian daily AL-NAHAR says Jordan's plan to implement a new policy is aimed at showing that it will not compete with the PLO for supporting the territories. Utman Halaq says the Jordanian program would not hurt residents of the territories.

[Begin recording] [Halaq] With regard to the dissolving of Parliament, if this takes place then it is a translation to clarify the position of the Jordanian Government and policy of the future. With regard to development plan, with regard to salaries to the civil servants of the Government of Jordan, with regard to salaries of the teachers, which Jordan has committed itself to, there has been no talk of eliminating or trying to go back on these issues. And I believe that Jordan will continue to support the people here because they feel that it is their obligation to do so; not because they are pressured to do so, but because they want to do it as brother to brother.

[Unidentified correspondent] How have the last 7 months changed Jordanian policy toward the territories?

[Halaq] Actually, the intifada [uprising], as you know, the main purpose of it is against occupation, but there have been instances where it showed expression against Jordan. But actually Jordan is not the culprit. It has never been the occupier of the territories, and the intifada is against occupation. If there were instances where, as I said, Jordan was attacked, it was by groups that were always—before and during and after the intifada—against Jordan and against the unity of Palestinians and the Jordanians, and the confederation which we believe is the only way out for the future, after peace is reached with Israel and occupation is ended. [end recording]

Peres Warned To Temper 'Jordanian Option' Talk

TA2407115488 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpts] A senior Jordanian official has reported that immediately after 'Id al-Adha, Jordan will introduce drastic changes regarding its ties with the West Bank. The object of these moves will be to allow Jordan to devote more time and resources to a far-reaching reform for the East Bank.

This information was reported in Amman to the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS. The East Jerusalem daily AL-QUDS published this report yesterday. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent has learned that Jordan has recently transmitted a message to Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, through a third party, warning him against going

too far in his election campaign with statements about the "Jordanian option." Peres was told that at some stage, Jordan will be forced to refute such statements.

Call for Conference Reflects 'Double Standard'

TA2807045788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says those who call on Israel to participate in an international conference on Middle East peace are guilty of practicing a double standard. Speaking last night in Jerusalem, the prime minister said such a conference had never been proposed to solve the world's other conflicts, including the Iran-Iraq war.

[Begin Shamir recording] International conferences do not bring peace; only direct negotiations do. No one else is told to attend such conferences to resolve their disputes. Throughout the 8 years of slaughter of the Iran-Iraq war, no one suggested convening an international conference to end it. Only in our case has it become in the interests of many nations of the world to demand that we submit to an international tribunal that would be overwhelmingly negative. I believe this is an application of the double standard. It is unfair, it is unjust, and it is dangerous. [end recording]

The prime minister was speaking at the closing dinner of the Conservative Movement conference.

PLO's Abu Sharif Remarks Called 'Fairy Tales'

TA2207142288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by the Washington correspondent and Gad Li'or]

[Excerpts] PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif claims that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had indeed offered the PLO administrative responsibility for the territories, but the terrorists rejected the offer.

Abu Sharif further claims that a Romanian messenger came to Israel a few days ago with a message from 'Arafat responding to that offer. [passage omitted]

"Bassam Abu Sharif is a pathological liar who lives in the fantasy world of the Arabian nights. He makes up a new story every other day. This gives the PLO a new headline each time, and that is just what he is after."

This sharp comment was made yesterday by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, in response to a new publication of Abu Sharif's remarks in THE WASHINGTON POST.

In reply to a question by Gad Li'or concerning other Abu Sharif remarks, Pazner said: "There is not a bit of truth to these reports. I am very surprised by the fact that newspapers such as THE WASHINGTON POST are at all willing to publish such fairy tales."

Rabin Says Gulf War End 'No Assurance' of Peace

TA2707185488 Jerusalem Domestic in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet held a special session today to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and the current efforts to achieve a complete cease-fire between the two sides. Cabinet members were given evaluations by defense personnel of the prospects of a cease-fire and a possible realignment this may bring in its wake. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also speculated about the effects of an end to the Gulf war when he addressed U.S. conservative rabbis this afternoon, attending their rabbinical assembly in Jerusalem.

[Begin Rabin recording] If this is also translated into political settlements, what will the new alliances in the Arab world be? The Arab-Israeli conflict lost priority in most of the Arab countries in the past 8 years. To what extent will it regain its priority? We might face a new chapter in which there might be greater threats, or hopefully, some better prospects for a political process.

At the same time, there is no assurance that an Arab leader, or a group of Arab countries' leaders, will not decide to initiate war against us. Let us not forget: Iraq initiated the war against Iran in 1980. In 1975, the same guy who initiated the war in Iraq, Saddam Husayn, signed an agreement with the shah of Iran, in which all the oil problems were solved. The rights of navigation at the Persian Gulf were settled. The fact that he had signed an agreement did not prevent him from going to war once he believed that the strategic situation had changed in his favor. The fact that his signature was on the paper did not bother him for more than a few seconds. When he thought he had the advantage, he used force to achieve goals he could not have achieved before. [end recording]

Egypt's Abu Ghazalah, Tamir Reportedly Meet

TA2207125688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 88 p 3

[Report from London by Victor Levi]

[Text] The European weekly on intelligence affairs MIDDLE EAST INSIDER writes that "Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Hasim Abu Ghazalah and Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir met in Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, at the beginning of July. Among other things, they discussed the Tabah dispute and the Chinese military involvement in the Egyptian arms industry." The weekly adds that Tamir offered his interlocutor Israel's cooperation in the Hulwan plant, where Egypt and Argentina are jointly developing the Condor missile. The two men agreed that a solution of the Tabah problem would also benefit bilateral relations in the military sphere.

Charge d'Affaires Invited to Cairo Event

TA2207200488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 88 p A2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Despite the tension resulting from the intifada [uprising], David Afeq, the minister plenipotentiary who acts as charge d'affaires in the absence of the ambassador, was invited to the central event held this week at the ruling party headquarters in Cairo on the occasion of Revolution Day. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps in Cairo, including ambassadors of Arab countries which reestablished diplomatic relations with Egypt this year.

It is worth noting that none of the Egyptian officials invited to the Independence Day reception held in the Israeli Embassy in Cairo attended the reception. They thus protested the killing of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Similarly, Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, did not hold the traditional reception at the Daniel Hotel. He also decided not to invite a small group of Israelis for a state dinner. The Egyptians explained by saying that in view of the intifada the time was not right for celebrations.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday sent congratulatory messages to President Mubarak, expressing the hope for peace and prosperity for the Egyptian people. Peres also sent a letter to his counterpart, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. The two will confer in New York in 2 months during the opening session of the UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Opposition to New Ambassador Denied

TA2707091688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's new ambassador to Egypt, will depart for Cairo on 31 July as agreed by the Israeli and Egyptian Foreign Ministries. This was stated yesterday by Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el.

The spokesman denied yesterday's report in HA'ARETZ alleging that Shamir's departure is being held up because of security problems. The spokesman pointed out that there was no delay in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's confirmation of Ambassador Shamir's appointment and that the approval was given within the customary period of time.

'Controversial' Fences Removed in Tabah

TA2807100188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The controversial fences in the disputed Tabah area were removed a short time ago under orders issued by Amir Driori, head of the Antiquities Department. He acted on instructions from the education minister, who acted on instructions from the foreign minister. The issue refers to ropes and signposts which fenced in what was described as an archaeological site in Tabah. The Egyptians protested sharply against what they called a violation of the status quo in Tabah. Now there is no reason to protest; the fences and signposts have been removed.

Hizballah Creating Own 'Territory' in Lebanon

TA2407131888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by military affairs correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The Hizballah fighters have recently been attempting to set up a territory called "Hizballah-land" north of the security zone. The deployment of such a large number of fighters in the area might have an immediate effect on the state of security in that zone and affect the resistibility of the Christian enclave in Jazzin.

The present situation, resulting from recent developments, has turned that relatively large area, which is virtually contiguous to the security zone, into radical Shi'ite territory ruled by the Hizballah fighters. The latter by and large emulate the pattern first set by the PLO in the 1960's, when that organization took over an area north of the border by intimidating the local villagers to the point of expelling them from their homes and then establishing headquarters and operational bases. This is why the vicinity of the villages of Maydun and Zillaya can already be called "Hizballah-land."

Over 1,000 Hizballah fighters are deployed in the area, engaged in training and organizational activity. It is believed that at the end of the organizational phase, they will begin launching attacks on the security strip.

One other Hizballah objective, which is evident from the deployment of Hizballah fighters, is the cutting off of Jazzin from the rest of the security strip. It is feared that Hizballah might gain control over the main axis leading to that Christian town, thereby making travel there hazardous.

Military defense of Jazzin is provided by General Lahd, whose fighters are permanently stationed in outposts surrounding the town. Israeli security elements are also in constant touch with Jazzin.

Hizballah continues to get massive support from Iran. According to some assessments, the end of the Gulf war would allow Tehran to pay closer attention to Lebanon and obtain its declared goal of establishing an Islamic republic there.

Syria Rejects Requests for Druze Family Visits

TA2507075088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Yo'el Dar]

[Text] Golan Heights—The Syrian authorities have turned down Golan Druze requests to allow their kin to visit them. The negative answer came through the International Red Cross recently.

The Syrians said they did not consider the issue open to discussion. The Golan Druze say the Israeli authorities have already allowed two groups of Druze to visit Syria, including one of 47 Druze presently visiting Syria and due to return to their villages next Sunday. Another 500 applied to the Interior Ministry, urging it to allow them to see their relatives for the first time in 21 years.

Ministry officials said the applications are under study but so far no date has been set for the third group.

Moroccan King Said Interested in Peres Visit

TA2507102488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] King Hassan II of Morocco will invite Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and foreign minister, on another visit to Morocco. This was reported by official Moroccan figures to David Mellor, the British deputy secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, during his visit to Rabat 10 days ago.

The Israeli Embassy in London reported to Jerusalem that Mellor discussed a meeting between Peres and Hassan II with Moroccan officials. They told the British statesman that the king is interested in inviting Peres, but that this will not happen in the near future.

Mellor conferred with leaders of the Moroccan Jewish community and discussed their possible contribution to a peace process in the region.

Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that Peres is highly interested in meeting with Hassan and other world figures on the eve of the elections. So far, however, no senior level meetings have been scheduled for Peres aside from the September meetings during the UN General Assembly sessions in New York. Peres will meet with the foreign ministers of the USSR, the PRC, Egypt, the United States, and Poland, among others. [passage omitted]

South African Envoy Presents Credentials

TA2707113488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] South Africa's new ambassador, Johan Viljoen, presented his credentials to President Herzog in Jerusalem this morning. A small antiapartheid demonstration took place outside the president's mansion during the ceremony. Later reporter Gid'on Remez asked Ambassador Viljoen whether he would try to persuade the Israeli Government to lift its limited sanctions on South Africa.

[Begin recording] [Viljoen] Well, it stands to reason that sanctions are, as I said, counterproductive. We don't think it would help the people that they are supposed to help, and we would do our best to persuade the Israeli Government that such measures would only be harmful to the poorer sections of our population.

[Remez] Sir, in the past few days reports have again surfaced concerning military cooperation between Israel and South Africa, especially in the field of military manufacturing. Has the South African Government any specific comment to make on where these matters stand now and what it sees as the future scope for such cooperation?

[Viljoen] I think you are referring to reports about the need for South Africa to build its own fighter aircraft. In that respect I think that the position was made clear by the chief of the South African Air Force . I really don't have anything to add to what he had to say except that those reports linking Israel with South Africa in that field were purely speculative.

[Remez] Sir, you have been received here—both at the airport and now at the president's mansion—by small but rather loud demonstrations of protest. What is the feeling of an ambassador arriving to such a welcome?

[Viljoen] Yes, I think you put the emphasis on the right word: small. Of course there were those demonstrations, but on the other hand I have received so many messages of welcome and I have received such a warm welcome in Israel that I think that outweighs completely the small demonstrations that have taken place. [end recording]

New Zealand Envoy Presents Credentials

TA2707194088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpt] New Zealand's new ambassador to Israel, John Cunningham, presented his credentials today to President Hayim Herzog. Cunningham, who is a non-resident ambassador, told The Voice of Israel that New Zealand held back on its installing its new ambassador for 2 months, to protest the situation in the territories. [passage omitted]

20 Percent of Jewish Voters Undecided

TA2207164888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Elihu Katz, director of The Continuing Survey]

[Text] Three months before the general election some 20 per cent of Jewish voters are still undecided. Their wavering, however, is within, not between, the two major voting blocs, and it is unlikely, therefore, that their decisions will have any major impact on the November vote.

These late-June results are from The Continuing Survey, founded in 1967 as a joint project of the Israel Institute of Applied Social Research and the Smart Family Foundation Communications Institute of the Hebrew University. It regularly polls a representative sample of 1,200 Jewish adults.

Four recent surveys, including our own, are unanimous in showing a persistently even split between voters of the two major blocs. Unaware, or undaunted by the prospect that this spells another government of national "unity", decided voters are giving Labour and the Likud an average of 38 and 35 per cent of their votes, respectively.

The ideological allies of the two major parties (mostly RATZ [Citizens Rights Movement] on the left and Tehiya on the right) increase each side by 10 per cent. Adding the religious voters (7 per cent) to the right gives the grand totals in the four surveys of 48-52, a marginal difference in favour of the right. Our own data split 47-53.

Under the circumstances, the party tacticians are drawn to two major pools of potential voters. They can try to persuade the undecided to take their side. And, they can try to woo the "dissonants," those whose political attitudes are out of line with their party inclinations. If we assume (wrongly, perhaps) that the campaign will concentrate on the peace process, dissonance would refer to the doves of the Likud and the hawks of Labour.

Twenty-one per cent of the respondents in our survey said that they have "not yet decided" in a spontaneous answer to the question, "If Knesset elections were held today, for which party would you vote?" Twelve per cent refused to answer, and 5 per cent said they do not intend to vote. These figures are higher than those reported in other surveys, for reasons unclear to us.

Who are the undecided? While we obviously do not know how they intend to vote this time, we do know how they voted last time. The distribution of their 1984 votes shows the same even split between Labour and Likud that characterizes the decided. The undecided differ from the rest, however, in having given more of their 1984 votes to the small parties of both sides.

We can also compare the undecided and the population as a whole with respect to the "closeness" (qirva) of their present views to one of four ideological groupings (see Table 1). The table shows that the undecided are relatively more concentrated in the small centre and religious groupings, both of which have experienced upheavals recently.

About 70 per cent of 1984 voters for Likud and Labour intend to repeat their votes this year, compared with 50-60 per cent of previous voters for RATZ, Tehiya and the religious parties. Only 4 per cent of former voters for each side indicates an intention to cross over to the other side.

So far then, the data strongly suggests that the undecided are safely ensconced in their ideological camps and that the likelihood of their crossing from one bloc to another is very small. The hesitation will be confined to a choice among parties within each bloc.

The demographic data shows that there is a concentration of undecided among highly-educated voters and voters of Western descent. This group also consists of Labour's strongest supporters, especially among its older members. It seems safe to assume, therefore, that the undecided among the older Ashkenazim with higher educations are wavering among the parties on the left. But there is a possibility that the indecision among the younger Ashkenazim with higher education may be between blocs. Table 2 displays voting intentions by ethnicity and generation, that is, by country of origin of father and self, with Afro-Asian or Sephardi origin listed as "East" and European-American or Ashkenazi origin listed as "West."

Among the Eastern groups who told us how they would vote, the first generation (East/East) and the second generation (Israel/East) support the Likud to about the same extent. Among the Ashkenazim who have decided, however, the second generation (Israel/West) has strayed quite far from the strongly Labour orientation of the older generation (West/West). This is in spite of the fact that, ideologically, the younger group of Ashkenazim (Israel/West) can be shown to be the most liberal of the five groups (although not much more so than the Israel/Israel group or the older Ashkenazim). From the point of view of "dissonance," the young, educated Ashkenazim are a group to keep an eye on.

TABLE 1
Feeling of Ideological "Closeness" (per cent)

To parties of the	Undecided	Total population
Left (Labour, MAPAM, RATZ)	36	41
Centre (Shinui, Liberals)	15	9
Right (Likud, Tehiya)	36	41
Religious	13	9
	100	100
Number of Respondents	(207)	(1057)

TABLE 2
1988 Voting Intentions of Those Already Decided
By Country of Origin of Father and Self (per cent)

Respondent was born in:	Israel	Israel	Israel	East	West
Father was born in:	Israel	East	West	East	West
Vote Intention, June 1988					
Parties of the left	68	24	57	30	71
Parties of the right	32	76	43	70	29
	100	100	100	100	100
Number of Respondents	(65)	(200)	(116)	(169)	(161)

21 Percent of Arab Voters Support HADASH

TA2407115288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] Over 25 percent of Israeli Arab voters do not intend to participate in the elections. Twenty-one percent will vote for HADASH, 12 percent for the Alignment, and 11 percent for the Progressive List for Peace; 64 percent are against Arab party participation in a coalition led by the Alignment.

These findings are the result of a poll conducted among Israeli Arabs by the East Jerusalem weekly AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI, which also carried the poll's results in yesterday's edition.

The poll was conducted among 1,215 Arab citizens from various settlements in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev, 87 percent of whom live in settlements with a population over 5,000, and the remainder in smaller settlements. The interviewees were also requested to answer two general questions with respect to their party affiliation.

One question examined the extent of their support for the establishment of a united Arab party. Some 45 percent said they oppose such a party, 42 percent were in favor, and 13 percent had no opinion.

Another question examined the extent of their support for the concept that an Arab party would join a coalition if the Alignment wins the elections. Some 64 percent of the interviewees replied in the negative, 21 percent said they support the concept, and 15 percent had no opinion.

AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI editor Jack Khazmu said yesterday that the poll was conducted during the last two weeks by 35 Israeli Arab academics, mostly students, under the scientific supervision of experts.

A comparison of the above findings with the results of the Arab vote for the 11th Knesset indicates that despite the recent developments in the territories and in the political sphere, there has been no real change in the voting patterns.

The abstention rate reflected by the poll is similar to that of the last elections: about 30 percent. As for the vote breakdown, without the abstentions: HADASH and the Progressive List for Peace seem to have either retained their power, or declined slightly; the Alignment, MAPAM, and 'Ezer Weizman's party as a group had 30 percent of the Arab vote in the 11th Knesset. According to the poll, the Alignment will receive 16 percent, MAPAM about 11 percent, and Darawshah's party about 9 percent. A very significant decline is noted in the Arab sector's support for the National Religious Party.

The following is the breakdown of answers to the question: "For whom would you vote if the elections took place today?"

Party	No. of Votes	Percent
HADASH	261	21.48
Alignment	144	11.85
Progressive List for Peace	130	10.70
MAPAM	100	8.23
Darawshah	80	6.58
Likud	61	5.20
Citizens Rights Movement	52	4.28
Shinuy	39	3.21
National Religious Party	10	0.82
Kakh	7	0.58
Tehiya	1	0.08
Will not vote	330	27.17
Total	1215	100.00

Nehamkin Leads Move To Replace Peres With Rabin

TA2207171888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 88 p A1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] In a private meeting with Shim'on Peres, Minister Arye Nehamkin suggested that Peres give up his position as first on the Alignment Knesset list in favor of Yitzhaq

Rabin. Nehamkin believes that such a list might add three to four Knesset seats to the Alignment, thereby guaranteeing victory in the elections.

Other Alignment ministers believe that a dramatic change is needed. Replacing Peres is one such option.

Yesterday Nehamkin said that he has long been supporting the idea of placing Rabin in the first place. He believes that Rabin would attract Likud and rightwing party supporters. "Our problem is not how to get more votes from the left, which is always ready to join a coalition with us, but how to attract votes from the right," said Nehamkin.

Senior Alignment officials noted that morale in the party is low because of the strained relationship between Chairman Peres and other ministers, as well as many top figures.

Peres is in conflict with, among others, Ministers Gad Ya'aqobi and Moshe Shahal, Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar, and Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel.

SHAS Leader Submits Resignation to Council Head

TA2207130588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] SHAS leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz today notified Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef of his resignation from all duties in the party and, in fact, of his quitting the movement. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabbi Peretz held a meeting with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, who is the head of the Torah Sages Council, to tell him of his decision.

Our correspondent also notes that lately there have been serious disagreements in SHAS, involving mainly Rabbi Peretz versus [Interior Ministry Director General] Rabbi Arye Der'i and Deputy [Labor and Social Welfare] Minister Refa'el Pinhasi. Sources in SHAS say that Knesset Members Peretz, Ya'aqov Yosef, and Shim'on Ben-Shlomo will quit the party and run on a separate list for the Knesset. This step is aimed at helping them get the lion's share of the party's election funds.

SHAS Dispute Settled

TA2607185288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] The dispute in the SHAS party appears to have been resolved. This follows today's meeting of the party's Torah Sages Council. Earlier this week, SHAS' party leader threatened to resign unless differences within the party were settled.

Tehiya Completes Knesset Party List

TA2807060088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The Tehiya Party has completed the election of its party list for the forthcoming Knesset election. The first four slots were reserved for current Knesset Members Yuval Ne'eman, Ge'ula Kohen, Gershon Shafat, and Eli'ezer Waldman. After them came Gush Emunim's Elyaqim Ha'etzni and Beni Katzover.

Legislation Separates Knesset, Local Elections

TA2707052088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Knesset has passed legislation which separates local and national elections and fixes the date for the next municipal elections on 28 February. Fifty Knesset members [MK] supported the bill and no one opposed it. No Likud MK took part in the vote.

The High Court of Justice last night decided not to overturn the Knesset's ouster of House Committee Chairman Mikha Reisser. On Monday night the Knesset voted to oust Reisser and to reconstitute the House Committee. The move followed Reisser's 2-month stonewalling of the bill to separate Knesset and municipal elections. The High Court said, however, that there is much to be concerned about regarding the parliamentary precedent that was created. Court President Me'ir Shamgar wrote: There is room for concern over the ramifications of this step on the Knesset institutions and image. The High Court justices listened to arguments for 2 hours and then recessed for 5 and ½ hours before releasing their decision.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions

TA2707113088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Knesset today rejected a number of no-confidence motions tabled by opposition parties. The agenda included motions on the crisis in the health service, industry, traffic accidents, drugs, the territories, and Jerusalem. Answering on behalf of the government this morning was Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu.

Pro-Jordanian Palestinian Detained for 3 Months

TA2207193188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 88 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] Yesterday various Palestinian sources condemned the decision to place Dr Amin al-Khatib, head of the West Bank Federation [title as published], under a 3-month administrative detention. Al-Khatib is a well-known East Jerusalem physician. He is one of the most prominent figures in the West Bank and is considered closely associated with Jordan. This is the first time that

such a step has been taken against such a prominent Palestinian figure as Al-Khatib, who is acceptable to many Israeli as well as Jordanian elements.

Al-Khatib is apparently suspected of being middleman in the transfer of funds to hostile organizations in the West Bank through charity organizations. In recent months, several charity organization activists have been detained on similar suspicions. In a sharp manifesto issued yesterday by the Union of Charity Organizations in East Jerusalem, all international organizations—particularly the General Organization of Charity Organizations, whose center is in Jordan—were called upon to intercede on behalf of Dr Al-Khatib and obtain his release from administrative detention.

IDF Spokesman Puts Casualty Toll at 177

TA2407115188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The IDF spokesman has reported that to date 177 residents of the territories have been killed by IDF gunfire. According to Arab sources the total stands at 203.

The Arab sources further stated that 57 dead who are not included on the list died following gas inhalation, 18 died of beatings and electrocution, and 22 died of unverified causes.

Military sources said that the IDF is still investigating a number of cases in which residents of the territories were killed in circumstances other than by IDF gunfire. [passage omitted]

Minister Reports Unemployment Up 20 Percent

TA2507084288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by labor affairs correspondents Jeff Black and Avi Temkin]

[Excerpts] Unemployment jumped 20 per cent in the first half of this year compared with the first six months of 1987, Labour Minister Moshe Qatzav told the cabinet yesterday.

The minister warned that this situation was likely to worsen over the coming months as more factories run into difficulties.

The cabinet discussed the issue at the request of Housing Minister David Levi following last week's announcement by the Kitan textile plant in Bet She'an, Levi's hometown, that it intended firing 150 of the factory's 300 workers.

Qatzav, in a survey of the unemployment situation, said last month his ministry was informed of plans to dismiss 950 workers from factories all over the country compared with 335 dismissal notices in May.

Moreover, 55 per cent of the people looking for work last month failed to find employment, and the number of people without work for six days or more reached 21,258, compared with 17,000 in June last year. In all, 46,518 people last month registered with the Employment Service. [passage omitted]

Avi Tmekin adds:

In a related development, the Economic Ministry yesterday released figures which showed that during 1987 there was a drop in investments in development areas. The sole exception was in settlements in the West Bank.

According to Director-General Moshe Dovrat, the ministry approved investments totalling $705 million in the central region, compared to $647m. the previous year. Dovrat's figures show that the amount of approved investment projects in development areas for 1987 totalled $410 m., 27 per cent less than in 1986; investment in the territories, on the other hand, went up by 10 per cent to $40 million.

18 Suspected Drug Dealers Arrested in Haifa

TA2807082888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Eighteen suspected drug dealers were arrested last night in Haifa in a police raid. About 100 policemen participated in the operation. The dealers were exposed through the work of an undercover agent.

Briefs

Drug Addiction Statistics

Some 4,500 drug addicts are supplied with drugs under Health Ministry supervision. This is a country-wide five-fold increase since the system of licensed drugs supply began 4 years ago. The ministry says the trend is steadily upwards. About 30 new addicts join the scheme each month in the north alone. They receive a drug substitute, Adolan, from pharmacists. According to ministry estimates, licensed drug users count for between a quarter and a third of addicts in Israel. [Text] [*TA2307074188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Jul 88*]

Heroin Seized in Galilee

Detectives of the Galilee area police arrested a man who was traveling by taxi from Acre to Kafr Yasif on 21 July. He was carrying a bag containing 310 grams of heroin worth thousands of dollars. [Excerpt] [*TA2307074288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jul p A7*]

Amman To 'Soon Announce' Dissolution of House

JN2707124888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Responding to the request of the PLO, which is eager to stress that it is sole representative of the Palestinian people, Amman will soon announce the dissolution of the Jordanian House of Representatives, which includes 60 representatives, half of whom represent the occupied West Bank. Our radio has learned this from an informed source. The Jordanian parliament, which includes 30 West Bank representatives, is viewed as an interference with the PLO in its representation of the Palestinian people. This step falls within the framework of Jordan's policy to entrench its declared stands that confirm that Amman has no ambitions in any inch of the occupied Arab territories and has no intention of representing the Palestinian people or negotiating on the PLO's behalf.

King Husayn has frequently referred to the emergence of sensitivities between Jordan and the PLO on his country's activity in the occupied territories. This gave the impression that there is competition, not cooperation, between the two sides. Informed sources in Amman believe that Jordan's decision to dissolve the House of Representatives stems from the desire to stress Palestinian identity and the soleness of Palestinian representation. It is noteworthy that Jordan dissolved the House of Representatives in 1974 in the wake of the Rabat summit resolution, which considers the PLO the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In 1978, the National Consultative Council was formed to fill a constitutional vacuum. This council, which lasted until 1984, comprised 60 representatives from all parts of Jordan, and did not include any West Bank representatives.

Occupied Territories Development Plans Cancelled

JN2807123588 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Jul

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting before noon today. At the conclusion of the meeting, which was presided over by the prime minister, the Cabinet issued the following statement:

The Council of Ministers discussed the measures the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan should take in dealing with the Palestinian problem in its current phase. This was done in light of the resolutions of the Algiers extraordinary summit, which reflected the Arab commitment and intent to support the Arab Palestinian people in their heroic struggle to achieve their national goals under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole and legitimate representative. The Cabinet considered the essential requirements to give greater prominence to Palestinian identity, to enable the PLO to shoulder its responsibility fully, to remove any doubts concerning Jordan's real position in spite of its clarity, and to put an end to any attempt to suggest that Jordan's motives in supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under occupation are suspect or conducive to promoting what has been referred to as a sharing of administrative responsibility in the occupied territory and are containing and undercutting the role of the PLO. Moreover, Jordan's motives were subjected to accusations as contradicting the aspirations of the Palestinian people for independece on their national soil.

On the basis of the results of the discussions in the Council of Ministers; in keeping with Jordan's commitment to the Rabat summit resolutions, which emphasized that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and in keeping with Jordan's commitment to the Fes summit resolutions which called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and in adhering to Jordan's firm and declared position regarding the Palestinian people and Jordan's support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable national rights and to exercise their right of self-determination, including their right to establish their own independent state on their national soil; and in order to give substantial manifestation to the Jordanian concept as outlined by his majesty the king in his speech at the Algiers summit, in which he stressed that Jordan had no designs or ambitions over the Palestinian soil and in which he elucidated the prerequisites for joint Arab action in support of the Palestinian people in their heroic uprising; and on the basis of Jordan's firm belief that the Palestinian people should be the principal concerned party in seeking a solution to their problem and to remove any doubt which might arise regarding Jordan's relationship with the Palestinian people under occupation by virtue of Jordan's strong historical and geographical bonds with the Palestinian people; and in response to the desires and wishes of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as expressed by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO at the Algiers summit; motivated by all the above considerations, the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan decides:

1. To terminate the Jordanian development plan for the occupied territories.

2. To dissolve all the development tenders and purchases committees operating within the framework of the aforesaid plan.

3. To continue its contacts with Arab and friendly governments to encourage them to assist the Palestinian people under occupation to enable them to implement their development projects.

In announcing this decision, the Government of Jordan wishes to emphasize that it will spare no effort within its available means to assist the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in support of their glorious uprising. At the same time, the Government is determined to take

any measures within its mandate which would enhance the Palestinian national cause. The Government of Jordan wishes to make it emphatically clear that these measures will in no way impinge on the national unity of all the citizens in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This unity is and will continue to be dearly upheld and protected. The unity of our people is a solid foundation for the strength of our country and a legitimate cornerstone for a broader Arab unity with any Arab sister state. Jordan will continue to play its national role as a confrontation state and as principal party to the Arab-Israeli conflict in cooperation and coordination with its Arab brethren to free the occupied Arab territories with their gem, the Arab Muslim city of Jerusalem.

Egyptian Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks

JN2707153588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Amman—An Egyptian economic delegation under Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a visit to prepare for the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee. This committee will begin meeting on Saturday with the prime ministers of the two fraternal countries presiding. Dr Makramallah said he and his delegation are happy to visit Jordan. He praised the achievements of the march of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries, affirming that there are still many fields that need to be developed.

Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of state for economic affairs [title as heard]; the secretary general of the ministry of industry, trade, and supply; other officials; the Jordanian charge d'affairs in Cairo; and the Egyptian ambassador and embassy staff in Amman welcomed them at the airport.

Preparatory Meetings Begin

JN2707180088 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The preparatory meetings for the Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee began today at the Ministry of Industry and Trade under Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs; and Dr Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation.

The Egyptian delegation arrived in Amman today. Dr Makramallah said that the meetings of the higher committee and the preceeding preparatory meetings have great importance in develolping cooperation and coordination between the two countries in all fields—economic trade, joint ventures, agricultural development, insurance, exchange of information and experience, development of tourist exchange, education, advertisement, and others. [passage omitted]

Syria To Repay Debt Through 'Barter Deal'

JN2807102688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jul 88 p 6

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES Economics Correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Syria has agreed to settle its debt to the Jordanian Government and private sector through a barter deal involving reexports by Jordan of Syrian products to cover the cost of Jordanian industrial exports and services, official sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

The initial agreement was reached during a visit to Damascus earlier this month by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. It was followed by another visit last week by a Jordanian trade delegation led by industry and trade ministry Secretary-General Muhammad al-Saqqaf who discussed details of the agreement, the sources confirmed.

According to informed sources, the deal also involves reexports by Jordan of Syrian phosphates to cover $7 million of the $40 million debt which Syria owes the government, Royal Jordanian and private pharmaceutical and agricultural industries. Jordan provides Syria with electricity.

According to a senior official quoted by REUTERS, Syria has agreed to give Jordan barley, vegetables, glass and cotton to cover the five-year-old debt. The trade ministry source said the Kingdom would reexport the Syrian goods to pay a number of public shareholding companies who had offered services to Damascus.

Jordanian economist Fahd al-Fanik described the deal as "better than nothing," explaining that the Kingdom has succeeded in "making the best of the worst conditions." He was referring to Syria's inability to pay its debts in hard currency due to its acute shortage of foreign currencies.

"Syria's foreign exchange is non-existent," he told the JORDAN TIMES. "It is very good that such a deal was reached, because the debt could have easily remained unpaid for five more years." He said that Jordan may have to reexport Syrian goods at lower than usual prices in the international market to recoup part of its credit with Syria.

Al-Jumayyil Meets With Libyan Envoy 27 Jul

NC2707113788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The president received Libyan Ambassador 'Ali 'Ashur al-Furtas today. After the meeting, Al-Furtas said: I gave President al-Jumayyil a cable and a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, dealing with developments in the Arab region.

He added that he and the president had discussed Arab and Lebanese issues, noting that there are constant consultations between Lebanon and Libya. Al-Furtas stated that Al-Jumayyil had asked him to convey a message of affection and brotherhood to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

He said that Al-Qadhdhafi has invited Al-Jumayyil to visit Libya and that the Lebanese president had accepted the invitation. He noted that Al-Jumayyil's visit will take place at a future date and that he will be welcome and received with appreciation in Libya, in whatever capacity he visits that country.

'Saboteurs' Attack SLA Post; No Casualties

NC2707055688 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in (Al-Shaqdif) near (Rimat) in Jazzin was the target of an attempt by saboteurs to advance last night. The attempt started with rocket and machinegun fire directed at the position. The soldiers manning the post repulsed the attackers and forced them to withdraw. No losses have been reported.

Palestinians, Nasirites Clash in Sidon 27 Jul

NC2807061488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Palestinians and Nasirite Popular Organization members clashed in Sidon at 2030 last night. Three people were wounded in the fighting, including two Palestinians, 'Adnan al-Zu'bi and Abu 'Abduh.

'9 February' Claims Wounding Syrians 27 Jul

NC2807074888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] A spokesman for the Khalil 'Akkawi forces of the 9 February Organization has announced that one of the organization's groups last night attacked a Syrian checkpoint in the Al-Bastah al-Tahtah area of West Beirut with machineguns and hand grenades.

Four soldiers manning the post were wounded and five members of a Syrian military patrol, which passed by the checkpoint at the time of the attack, were killed or wounded, the spokesman added.

Rabin Visit Proof of 'Inconsisent U.S. Policy'
JN2707202888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Dear brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: The U.S. Administration has never thought seriously or honestly about a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

Besides, it has never thought of tackling the root causes of this question in a manner that will restore to the owners of the cause their national rights and that will help them live on their land in dignity and pride, enabling them to exercise their right to self-determination, like all other people of the world.

Nay, the only thing in this region that concerns the U.S. Administration is maintaining Israel's strength and superiority. It is also interested in seeing Israel have the upper hand in the region.

Within this context and in implementation of this concept and stand, the United States has spared no effort in providing Israel with material, military, and political support. Thus, the United States has placed all of its potentials and capabilities at Israel's disposal.

The visit by Zionist war minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Washington and the military, political, and material results of this visit fell within this context.

Rabin signed a memorandum on U.S.-Israeli cooperation in Washington, according to which there will be a coproduction of missile systems to intercept and foil surface-to-surface missiles. Also, Washington pledged to provide Israel with the amount earmarked for aid—namely $3 billion.

This support has not been restricted to this level. All U.S. political initiatives and moves in the region, which found their manifestations in the shuttles of Shultz and Murphy and in the Shultz plan, were to serve Israeli objectives, foremost among which is ending the Palestinian uprising, which has been going on in the occupied Arab territories for over 7 continuous months.

The Palestinian uprising has drawn the world's attention to the barbaric practices being perpetrated by the Zionist occupiers against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, this uprising has also exposed the racist nature of the occupation authorities to the world. Even the Western countries, which used to sympathize with Israel, have condemned and denounced these barbaric practices.

Hence came the U.S. political moves in the region, in coordination with the Zionist occupation authorities, with the aim of containing the uprisng by proposing ideas contained in initiatives that do not go beyond the provisions of the Camp David accords.

As a matter of fact, the U.S. Administration seeks to draw world public attention away from the campaigns of suppression, terrorism, and destruction in the occupied territories.

Moreover, it seeks to throw dust in the eyes on the one hand while on the other the U.S. Administration is seeking to weaken and abort this uprising.

Once the objective of these initiatives has been achieved, everything will return to its previous status, and these initiatives will become a thing of the past. This is what has really happened.

In the beginning, Shultz was enthusiastic and optimistic about making his initiative succeed. However, we find that he has recently begun to make contradictory statements.

He announced that this initiative is no more than a basis for further consideration and study by the new U.S. Administration, which will succeed the current administration after the U.S. elections late this year. This is the truth regarding the inconsistent U.S. policy, which tackles issues from its own and Israel's perspective.

If the U.S. Administration initiates any moves in the region, they are effected in coordination with Israel with the aim of realizing their common interests, which are detrimental and hostile to the Arab nation, the Palestine question, and the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

There is no doubt that our people and masses who are staging the uprising in the occupied homeland are aware of these suspect moves, as these masses have rejected the U.S. initiative. They have refused to receive George Shultz and talk to him, as he came to peddle Israeli ideas and opinions.

Our masses in the occupied homeland have replied to the U.S.-Israeli moves by escalating their struggle and their sweeping uprising, which has not stopped even for 1 day despite the Zionists' many acts of oppression and terrorism, which enjoy the support and backing of the U.S. Administration.

The uprising has been continuing firmly, and it will go unabated as long as the Zionist occupation of our Arab territories is maintained. The terrorist Zionist practices and the suspect U.S. proposals will only inflame the torch of the uprising.

They will also bolster our people's adherence to their land and their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland, Palestine.

Iraq Seen Moving Toward Alliance With Israel

LD2707141988 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States and the Baghdad and Cairo Regimes"]

[Text] The United States does not need to search for new excuses to justify its military deployments in the Gulf. Nor does the surrogate Iraqi regime need new justifications to keep out of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

The U.S. Administration, which maintains the highest degree of coordination and understanding with the Zionists over their strategic alliance, deployed its fleets in Arab waters to threaten the liberation forces committed to the struggle against the enemies of our nation, to protect Israel and the surrogate regimes revolving in its orbit, and to provide it with many other services.

As for the Iraqi regime, which continues to betray the causes of our nation, it has played and is still playing the role assigned to it in order to destroy Iraqi resources and contain the Iranian revolution, thus aiding the Zionist enemy and his strategic ally.

That fascist regime has been exposed since it ignited its mad war against the Iranian revolution. And although its exposed role no longer requires corroboration, new testimony has come from a source that can only be described as familiar and confident of such a role: A Camp David pillar announces to the people, just 48 hours after the announcement of Tehran's official acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, that the Iraqi regime will not direct its army to fight Israel.

Husni Mubarak's testimony is enough to prove that Saddam Husayn's treason has driven him into a stage of alliance with the Zionist entity, but without written documents, unlike both the murdered Al-Sadat and Mubarak.

Such an alliance is in harmony with Washington's policy, which protects the interests of the Zionist enemy, something that was confirmed by Shultz in an open statement that U.S. deployments will remain in the Gulf.

Anyhow, the policy of force and hostility to the peoples' interests and their will for liberation will no longer benefit its proponents. How can agents make any gains?

The will of the peoples cannot be defeated. Traitors must meet their inevitable fate, regardless of their alliance with Israel or the United States.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Kill Soviet Officer, Hold 3 Others

BK2707105488 Hong Kong AFP in English
1044 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, July 27 (AFP)—A Soviet officer has been killed and three taken prisoner in an ambush by mujahidin rebels near a Soviet military base at Shindand in eastern Afghanistan, rebel sources here said Wednesday.

The sources said negotiations were underway between the mujahidin and the Soviets who had offered 180,000 dollars for the return of the three officers and the body of the fourth. The Afghan resistance demanded the release of political prisoners being held in the region, they said.

Twelve civilians were also killed during the ambush which took place at Zir Koh on July 18, but the circumstances of their deaths were not clear.

Several hours after the clash, 60 Soviet-Afghan tanks and several armoured MI-24-D helicopters circled the site while soldiers questioned local residents, who were then evacuated, the rebels said.

Soviet-Afghan planes have bombed several mujahidin headquarters in Afghanistan's eastern Farah Province, the sources said.

Soviet forces have recently begun evacuating the Shindand base, their second largest in Afghanistan after Bagram north of Kabul, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said Tuesday.

A large portion of the Farah and Herat Provinces remains under the control of Ismael Khan, an influential leader of the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami.

4 Killed in Rocket Attacks on Jalalabad

LD2707153788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Extremist warmonger elements martyred or wounded a number of our compatriots on the 2d day of 'Id al-Adha when they fired with heavy weapons on residential areas of Districts 1, 2, and 3 of Jalalabad city.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that as a result of the 14 rockets fired in those areas, 6 people, including 2 women and 2 children, were martyred and 3 others were wounded. A house was also destroyed as a result of this criminal act.

According to another report, these predators attacked District 3 of Jalalabad on the 3d day of the 'Id festival with four surface-to-surface rockets, as a result of which one person was martyred and three others were wounded.

Decree Permits Formation of New Political Party

LD2707202188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that, in keeping with the humanitarian national reconciliation policy and the new multiparty political system in the country, Decree No 495 has recently been issued by Esteemed Najibullah regarding the establishment of the Union of God's Supporters [Itehadia-e Ansarollah]. The decree is as follows:

The decree of the president on the establishment of the Union of God's Supporters:

In accordance with Article 5 of the Constitution and Article 8 of the political parties law, the Union of God's Supporters is given permission to form. The Union of God's Supporters is required to act in line with Article 11 of the political parties law.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Official Refutes Ziaul Haq on USSR Withdrawal

LD2607211488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In an interview with a Moscow Television reporter, Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy minister of Afghanistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry, completely rejected the utterances of Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq concerning the halting of the withdrawal of the Soviet limited military contingents from Afghanistan. The deputy minister of foreign affairs said that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are faithfully fulfilling their obligations under the Geneva accords.

The return of the Soviet military contingents to the Soviet Union is continuing according to the timetable. This fact has been repeatedly stressed to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP]. He said that to divert international public opinion from Pakistan's consistent violations of the Geneva accords, General Ziaul Haq makes such groundless statements. So far, Afghanistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry has handed 57 notes to UNGOMAP, which show some 360 instances of Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords.

Karmand also added that to divert world attention from the consequences of the savage crimes that have been committed by the extremist opposition at Pakistan's instigation during the days of 'Id al-Adha against our innocent and Muslim people and to divert the Pakistani people's attention from the illegal postponement of parliamentary elections in that country and the prohibition of the Pakistani political parties from participating in elections—both events which have prompted broad criticism by the people of Pakistan—General Ziaul Haq has deemed it necessary to resort to groundless utterances for ulterior motives.

Regime Opponents Visit Relatives During 'Id

LD2707083688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 26 BAKHTAR—In accordance with the recent announcement of the Afghan Presidency which allows the opposition groups to visit their relatives during the sacred 'Id al-Adha days (Muslims religious festival), some of the opposition groups visited their relatives in Kabul, Parvan, Helmand and Meymaneh [as received] Provinces on Monday.

The mayors and other concerned state organs provided grounds for the opposition groups to spend 'Id days with their friends and relatives in happiness.

Recreation programs were organised here in the capital for those opposition groupings which came to Kabul to visit their families and friends. Concerts were performed by the radio-TV vocalists on the occasion as well.

Clashes Between Resistance, Government Reported

Reportage on Activities by 'Extremist Groups'

60 'Terrorists' Killed

LD2607140688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] An armed extremist warmongering group active near Kowt-e 'Ashrow, the provincial capital of Vardak Province, was recently crushed by the country's Armed Forces with the direct cooperation of the peace-loving local people of the district. According to a BIA military section report, 60 of the terrorists, including (Ways), one of their ringleaders, were killed and their weapons and ammunition destroyed.

7 Killed in Parvan

LD2707203088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Armed clashes among the extremist groups have recently intensified. According to a report by the BAKHTAR military correspondent, seven people—including Shirin Aqa, one of their leaders—were killed and tens of other were seriously wounded in Bagram District of Parvan Province during armed clashes.

50 'Extremists' 'Crushed'

LD2707205288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that a number of extremist warmongering groups, equipped with heavy weapons, recently tried to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in Lowgar Province by attacking residences, public welfare institutions, and government departments, on the instruction of their supporters and reactionary circles. Due to the demand of the people and to prevent the criminal deeds of the extremists, the Armed Forces units stationed in Lowgar Province took action. As a result, the extremist groups sustained heavy losses and a large amount of the enemy's weapons and ammunition was destroyed.

The report adds that as a result of this operation (Gholam Rasul), a ringleader of the extremist group who is well-known in the Mohammad Agha District for his criminal activity, together with an Arab adviser, were eliminated.

As a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces, (Molim Tur), together with an Arab adviser (Molim Esmatollah), and (Nawab), ringleaders of extremist groups, were also crushed in this province; and (Nematollah), another ringleader, was seriously injured.

The BAKHTAR military section adds that a group of professional terrorists, dependent on the extremist group, who had nested in (Baghakay) region, Lowgar Province, was crushed when the Armed Forces returned their blows. (Dur Muhammad) and (Golab Shah), two ringleaders of the extremist groups, and an Arab adviser, were among those killed in this operation.

As a result of combat operations carried out by the units of the Armed Forces in (Pas Du Ab) and Sar Sang region, heavy losses were inflicted on the extremist groups and several of the hideouts of the warmongering groups were destroyed. The report adds that as a result of the recent operations by the Armed Forces carried out in Lowgar Province, 50 of the extremists were crushed in the Mohammad Agha District and 26 were injured.

Kabul Bomb Plot Foiled

LD2707180988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] According to the BIA military section, extremist groups placed 2 kg of explosives in two thermos and planted them in the vicinity of (Pol-e Mahmud Khan) in Kabul, intending to cause harm. This evil plan was discovered and foiled.

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns Home From Saudi Arabia 28 Jul

BK2807073688 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Excerpt] President Ershad returned to Dhaka this morning after a week-long official visit to Saudi Arabia. Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, ministers, and high civil and military officials received him at the airport. A smartly turned out contingent drawn from three services presented a guard of honor to the president. [passage omitted]

Rajshahi University Closed Due to 'Armed Elements'

BK2707163488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Rajshahi University has been closed sine die [indefinitely] after armed elements entered the campus early this morning. Quoting the registrar of the university, our Rajshahi representative says all resident students were ordered to leave halls [dorms] by 1900 [1300 GMT] this evening. All examinations of the second year honors of 1986, which was scheduled to begin from Saturday next, have also been postponed.

India

Gandhi Addresses Congress-I Party Gathering

BK2707163388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated the government's commitment to firmly deal with the terrorist problem. Addressing the general body of the Congress-I Party in parliament in New Delhi today, Mr Gandhi said the biggest achievement of the government was the success of Operation Black Thunder in flushing out terrorists from the Golden Temple in May. He attributed the success of the operation to the support extended by the people.

The prime minister called upon all right-thinking people to come forward and supplement the efforts of the government in finding a solution to the Punjab problem. He said though the steps initiated by the government during the past few years in Punjab yielded results, still there are two basic problems. They are the level of Pakistani involvement in the Punjab problem and the difficulty to find somebody to work out a solution with, unlike the way it happened in Assam and Mizoram.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, the party general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the parliamentary party secretaries, Mr Ram Pyare Panika and Uttam Rathore, said that the prime minister spoke on the problems confronted by the country when he took over in December 1984.

Referring to the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] problem, Mr Gandhi said that an agreement could be arrived at between the state government and the GNLF mainly because of the stand taken by the center.

About Sri Lanka, the prime minister expressed confidence that in the coming few weeks or months it would be possible to achieve positive results.

On the economic front, the prime minister said that despite drought and bad monsoon in the past few years, the government has been able to manage the situation and keep the inflation rate at the lowest. The prime minister said that there is no discrimination in allocation of funds for the developmental activities between the Congress-I-ruled and opposition-ruled states.

On foreign policy, Mr Gandhi said that India played a significant role in solving the Afghanistan problem and in strengthening the Nonaligned Movement.

Commenting on the unity move by the opposition parties, Mr Gandhi said that unification without clear policies and programs will be meaningless. He said the opposition leaders must spell out their policies on the uplift of rural poor, improving the lot of the backward classes, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes. The prime minister said that the opposition leaders must come out with their views on the problems of communalism, the Ram Janam Bhumi-Babri Masjid [Hindus' and Muslims' claim to a historic place] controversy, and other national and international issues. The prime minister said that during the worst-ever drought last year, the opposition leaders did hardly anything to mitigate the sufferings of the drought-affected people.

Gandhi Briefed on Sri Lankan Situation

BK2707164388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, today called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and apprised him of the current developments in the island and the progress in the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement. Mr Dixit also called on the external affairs minister and the defense minister. It is understood that during the discussion, methods by which the political process could be revived in northeastern Sri Lanka were also examined.

Further Reportage on Gujarat Police Strike

Situation 'Returning to Normal'

BK2707162888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, has warned striking policemen that they must report for duty latest by tomorrow. In a statement in the state assembly, the chief minister said that the government will not hesitate to issue shoot-at-sight orders if the situation demands. He said paramilitary forces have been given orders to control any violence.

On the 4th day of the strike today attendance was affected in 50 out of 426 police stations of the state. The situation all over the state, including Varodara, is now returning to normal.

Gujarat 'Peaceful'

BK2807032288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] In Gujarat, there has been further improvement in the attendance of policemen and officers throughout the state as the strike entered the 5th day today. Many police stations have started functioning normally. According to an official press release, only 21 police stations are still affected by the absence of policemen. Meanwhile, the situation all over the state is reported to be peaceful.

'Large Number' Return to Duty

BK2807085488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] In Gujarat, barring some 40 police stations all the rest in the state have started functioning normally with full attendance. According to an official spokesman a large number of policemen and officers have returned to duty in the last 24 hours following an appeal by the chief minister, Mr Amarsingh Chaudhary. According to a delayed report five persons received stab injuries in Godhra Town in the Panch Mahals District late last night during violent clashes between two groups of people. Strict Army patrolling has been enforced in the disturbed areas of the town and the situation is under control.

'President's Rule' Extended in Tamil Nadu

BK2707162788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha has approved the extension of president's rule in Tamil Nadu by 6 months. The present term expires on the 30th of this month. The house adopted a statutory resolution to this effect moved by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today. Almost the entire opposition walked out of the house in protest.

Replying to the discussion, Mr Buta Singh said extension of president's rule is a constitutional obligation under the present situation, in which holding of immediate elections to the state assembly is not possible. He refuted the opposition's charge that the extension is sought for a political purpose. The home minister told the house that the electoral process was about to begin on the 20th of last month, when the state was faced with a threat of statewide strike by government employees and teachers. He said that there was also an agitation by Vanniars [a Tamil Hindu community] who threatened to boycott the elections and even prevent the people from participating in it. In these circumstances, the governor had no option but to recommend the extension of president's rule in the state.

During the discussion, opposition members demanded immediate assembly elections and installation of a popular government. They alleged that the extension of president's rule is being sought by the center to foist a Congress-I government in Tamil Nadu.

The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, made a similar statement outlining the reasons for seeking extension of president's rule in the state, while moving the resolution in the Rajya Sabha. The debate in the Rajya Sabha will continue.

2 Terrorists, 1 Civilian Killed in Punjab 27 Jul

BK2807032488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, three persons, including two terrorists, were killed yesterday evening. Two terrorists, fleeing after wounding a shopkeeper, were gunned down by the police in an encounter at Gadugeja Village in Gurdaspur District. In another incident, terrorists killed one person at Chogawan in Amritsar District.

Police Seize 'Huge Dump' of 'Sophisticated' Arms

BK2707163088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, police seized a huge dump of sophisticated foreign-made arms from terrorists' hideout in Ludhiana District last night. According to the district police chief, Mr Pandey, the haul included AK-47 Chinese assault rifles, AK-47 magazines, and automatic U.S.-made rifles, pistols, bombs and 20 kilograms of gelatin used for explosive devices. The arms were lying buried near a place of worship in village Chappar. The district police has also arrested six terrorists and two harborers.

In Gurdaspur District, a notorious terrorist Saheb Singh alias Baba Bairagi was killed in an inter-gang rivalry last night. His bullet-ridden body was recovered this morning.

Curfew Continues in Kashmir Border Town

BK2607164188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew continued in the border town of Punch today without any relaxation. The Army and the police are patrolling the town. The DIG [deputy inspector general] police told our Jammu correspondent that 20 persons have been arrested during the last 24 hours. The situation is stated to be under control. Leaders of various political parties have appealed to the people of Punch to maintain communal harmony.

Joint Action Planned 'To Curb' Naxalite Violence

BK2207150088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The police chiefs of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are to meet soon to work out a strategy to curb Naxalite violence. This was stated by the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Sarad Pawar, in the state assembly in Bombay today.

Mr Pawar said that about 100 Naxalites are active in the predominantly tribal inhabited areas of Chandrapur and Garhchiroli. He also disclosed that the Naxalites are receiving arms from Punjab terrorists.

Fencing of Border With Pakistan 'Now in Progress'
BK2707091988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Fencing of the India-Pakistan border in the Punjab sector is likely to be completed by the end of next month. Work on a 118-kilometer stretch is now in progress. Fencing is being done to curb terrorist activities and to prevent infiltration and smuggling of arms into India. Stating this in the Lok Sabha today, the union minister of state for home affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram, said based on this experience the government will consider putting up a fence in the Rajasthan and Jammu sectors also. He appreciated the people of Punjab for their cooperation in the fencing work. Already a 68-kilometer stretch has been fenced.

Replying to a spate of supplementaries on the Punjab problem, Mr Chidambaram reiterated that the government is prepared to talk to anyone who eschews violence, condemns terrorism, and agrees to work within the Constitution. About the release of the Jodhpur [Sikh political] detainees, Mr Chidambaram said the matter is under constant review. Already 40 under trial have been released. He urged the members not to make it a political issue.

In reply to another question, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said whenever the government has tightened its noose on Punjab terrorists, violence has erupted in the neighboring states. He said the government is pledged to root out terrorism from Punjab. The government will also extend all help to the state for combating terrorism.

Earlier, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, allowed the discussion on the Punjab situation following a spate of supplementaries on the action plan to check terrorism in the state during question time.

Four Opposition Parties Propose Merger
BK2607164788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Authorized representatives of the Janata, the Lok Dal, the Jana Morcha, and the Congress-S have proposed merger of the four parties into a new united party to be named the Samajawadi Janata Dal. The decision was taken at New Delhi today, at a meeting of leaders of these parties. Professor Madhu Dandavate of Janata, who attended the meeting, told our correspondent that the proposals will be submitted to the respective parties for approval before the 15th of next month.

The proposed party is scheduled for launch on Independence Day. It will have as its symbol the farmer and the wheel. The flag will be green with the symbol on its body.

Members of the four parties who attended today's meeting include Mr Ajit Singh, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, Mr Biju Patnaik of Janata; Mr Devi Lal and Mr Sharad Yadav of Lok Dal; Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Ramdhan, Mr Arun Nehru of Jana Morcha; and Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan and Mr Kishore Dev of the Congress-S.

Paper Pleads Case of Bangladesh Refugees
BK2607151788 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Jul 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Don't Forget Them"]

[Text] Efforts to settle the problem of the over 50,000 Chakma refugees from the the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, who have been crowding into around half a dozen refugee camps in Tripura for more than two years, have received a setback with the failure of the recent round of talks between representatives of the Bangladesh Government and the Chakmas. The Bangladesh Government has not been able to reassure the Buddhist Chakmas that they will be left alone if they return. Without specific reassurances, which are incorporated in their 25-point charter of demands, the Chakma refugees in India are unlikely to voluntarily choose to return and face, once again, the terror tactics of the Bangladesh Army which drove hordes of them across the border to India thrice in the course of the last 10 years. Their basic demands today include not only a withdrawal of the Army, which has special powers under the disturbed areas ordinance, but also a return to the pre-1964 set-up when the Chittagong Hill Tracts had a certain measure of autonomy.

In fact, the problems of the Chakmas began when the autonomy and protected status that their sparsely-populated region had enjoyed for several centuries, even prior to the arrival of the British on the subcontinent, was abrogated by the Pakistan Government. Thus, from being an "excluded area" where non-tribals could not reside without special permission, the Chittagong Hill Tracts became the target of the land-hungry millions of the plains, who lived crowded 2,000 to a square mile. The real influx of plains people, however, began only after 1975, with the overthrow of the Mujib government and the adoption of a deliberate policy by the military rulers of Bangladesh to settle people from the plains in the hills. Any resistance shown by the Buddhist Chakmas, who in the course of a few decades have seen themselves outnumbered in their own land, was brutally suppressed by the Army. The brutality with which this was done drew the attention of international human rights organisations like Amnesty International.

The consequences of this deliberate policy of changing the demographic profile of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the Army's actions in the region, have forced these poor tribals, the majority of them subsistence farmers, to seek shelter across the border. Their numbers in the refugee camps in India are large enough to be noticed,

but because their presence does not impinge on the rest of India, and because states in the northeast are faced with a variety of other, more pressing, problems, their future does not invite the kind of urgent attention that it should. Their apprehensions about their future have understandably grown with the recent declaration of an Islamic State of Bangladesh which will make their people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts even more vulnerable than before. The Chakmas should not be forgotten. India has a moral responsibility towards them and should continue to seek ways to persuade the Bangladesh Government to assure them safe return and stay in their homeland.

Iran

Velayati on UN Talks, Hostages-Assets Issue

LD2707154388 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 27, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held separate talks with the U.N. chief and the Brazilian chairman of the Security Council at the U.N. Headquarters Tuesday on ways of implementing UN Resolution 598 which calls for cease-fire in the Iraqi-imposed war.

After the talks, Velayati addressed a press conference where he said despite Iran's close cooperation with U.N. secretary-general the Iraqi regime has again embarked on a full-scale invasion of Iranian territory, openly ignoring Perez de Cuellar's demand for self-restraint.

Velayati also refuted a claim raised on Monday by the Iraqi ambassador to the U.N. that Ba'thist troops had withdrawn to the internationally-recognized borders.

Contrary to the claim, Velayati noted, Iraqi occupation forces have launched all-out aggression against the western parts of Iran, heavily using the outlawed chemical weapons.

The foreign minister said that he had informed Security Council chairman Brazil's Paolo Nogueira Batista, on Iraq's new aggressive moves and its extensive use of lethal toxic gases.

He quoted Batista as condemning the deployment of chemical arms as a "war crime" and as announcing the council's preparedness to help bring about a ceasefire in the conflict.

Foreign MInister Velayati, describing as "constructive" his first round of talks with the U.N. chief, noted that he had briefed Perez de Cuellar on the latest development in the war fronts and on Iranian people's heroic resistance against the enemy aggression.

Velayati, asked about the recent statements of Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on American hostages in Lebanon and Iran's frozen assets in the U.S., replied "Washington is duty bound to return our assets. Although the issue of hostages concerns Lebanon, we are ready to do all within our power to secure their release for humanitarian reasons."

Meets With Perez de Cuellar

NC2807051988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Telephone report by unidentified Central News Unit corespondent in London—recorded]

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our foreign minister who is in New York for talks with the UN secretary general on the implementation of Resolution No 598, held a third round of talks with Javier Perez de Cuellar on the details of the [words indistinct] of Resolution No 598 and on ways of implementing the secretary general's plan (?concerning) this resolution during the early hours of this morning Tehran time.

Meanwhile, Javier Perez de Cuellar announced that as Iran and Iraq have officially accepted the implementation of Resolution No 598, from now on cooperation with him in his capacity as the UN secretary general must be the declared commitment by these two countries.

Without referring to the Iraqi regime's obstacles in implementing the [words indistinct] and Resolution No 598, the UN secretary general said: From now on, cooperating with me on implementing the resolution will be the two countries' duty.

Also, Paolo Batista, chairman of the Security Council, announced last night that he hopes the current meetings in the United Nations will lead to a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

During his meetings with Javier Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister Dr Velayati expressed the Islamic Republic's full support for the secretary general's implementation plan and for his efforts to implement Resolution No 598. A European television commentator stated last night that until the last Iraqi soldier leaves Iranian territory, the establishment of a cease-fire and the implementation of Resolution No 598 would be difficult.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London.

SFRY Official Sends Message to Velayati

LD2707164588 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1519 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, 27 Jul (TANJUG)—A message from Federal Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was today presented to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani.

The contents of the message, which was presented by Mirko Zaric, SFRY ambassador in Tehran, refers to prospects for applying Resolution 598 following Iran's acceptance of this UN document.

Receiving the message, the Iranian official drew attention to the SFRY's important role in the United Nations and farther afield in eliminating the remaining difficulties concerning the conflict and settling the general situation in the region.

Musavi on Iraq's 'Inherent Aggressiveness'

LD2707161488 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 27 Jul 88

["Premier—Peace a Distant Dream Unless Enemy Aggression Is Totally Suppressed"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, saying that Iran's formal acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 has unveiled Iraq's inherent aggressiveness, noted that only the total suppression of this barbaric nature will bring a lasting and honorable peace to the region.

The premier, speaking at a Cabinet session here Wednesday, said that the Iranian Muslim people have given the enemy and its mercenary hypocrites a severe punishment over the past two weeks. The more the enemy continues its aggression, the more enthusiastically people will man the war fronts, he added.

The unprecedented presence of Iran's Muslim people in the war fronts over the past week indicates their commitment to the principles and values of the Islamic Revolution, the premier concluded.

Praises Acceptance of Resolution

LD2707165088 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today that one of the enemy's goals for its renewed invasion of the Islamic Republic was a bid to "destroy the high morale" of the Iranian Muslims.

Speaking at a ceremony for despatch of volunteer forces to the war fronts, Musavi said that Iranian Muslims forced the U.S. to kneel down before the might of the Islamic Revolution and they are valiantly resisting since the last decade plots hatched by global arrogance.

Contrary to the enemy's expectations, he continued, a revolutionary wave swept across the country generating a mass mobilization for defending Islam, following Imam Khomeyni's historic acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 "for the sake of Allah, Islam and Muslims".

The premier said the high morale of Iran's Muslim combatants inflicted "heavy blows" on the Ba'thist invader. The enemy has come to realize that Iran's Muslim combatants are capable of resisting any invasion backed by global arrogance, he noted.

Imam Khomeyni's courageous move in accepting Resolution 598 unmasked Saddam regime's crimes and introduced to the world's awakened conscience the oppressed face of the Islamic Revolution, Musavi said. "It (imam's measure) proved who is the true peace-lover and who is the real war-monger," he concluded.

Besharati on Reasons for Accepting Resolution

LD2707185688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Roundtable discussion with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Hojjat ol-Eslam Montajabnia, Majlis Defense Committee chairman, moderated by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Some developments have arisen at the international level. As many political experts say, our world today and the world community in which we live is going through changes. It is in the process of development, changes in terms of an inherent characteristic of the present world community. It is natural that in this ever-changing world it is not possible to adopt single strategies and tactics to confront this order. If we have fixed principles, it is obvious that in order to achieve these principles it is necessary for us to adopt differernt methods of approach in accordance with changing circumstances.

What I understood from parts of the message of his eminence the imam is that new circumstances and new situations in the world scene has made it necessary for us to accept Resolution No 598, and to adopt, from now on, new strategies, tactics, and methods of approach toward the achievement of our struggle's objectives and principles. I wanted to know the views of Your Excellencies Mr Montajabnia and Mr Besharati.

[Montajabnia] I would say that scientists state three principles for humans in their social and individual lives. These are one's main goals in life, the strategy adopted based on those and on one's fixed and general principles, and lastly, the tactics and techniques people use. [passage omitted]

[Besharati] One of the characteristics of the Islamic Revolution is to do certain things that cannot be predicted by any of the countries of the world, not even those that resort to or have access to increasing, vast, and pervasive powers. Our acceptance of Resolution No 598 was not predicted by either of the two superpowers. They have no policy for neutralizing the positive effects of the acceptance of the resolution from an international standpoint. Several hours after passing Resolution No 598, George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, announced that Iran will never accept this resolution.

We will benefit from this issue; that is, they formulated the resolution in such a way that they ghought it would be it unacceptable to us. In this way they would poison the climate against us and raise the resolution like a stick against us. After our position became clear and we stated we had not rejected this resolution, the U.S. State Department announced that Mr Shultz was expressing his personal, unofficial view and was not expressing the view of the State Department.

The Soviet Union did the same. They supported the Iraqi regime in this war as much as they could. They supported it in terms supplying arms on a very large and unprecedented scale, along with about 1,000 fighter-aircraft. In the past 6 months, they placed over 5,000 tanks at the disposal of the Iraqi regime and 300 long-range missiles. They placed these missiles and very heavy and advanced military equipment at the disposal of the Iraqi regime via Aqaba in Jordan.

On the basis of some information we received regarding the meetings of the two superpowers in Reykjavik and Washington and Moscow, the chief and first topic of discussion they had was about the war. They drew up some plans to further aid Iraq and apply more pressure on us. When we accepted the resolution in accordance with our own interests, they were confused. They did not believe it. They believed we would continue along the path we had proposed and adopted before. However, we move in accordance with what is in the interest of our own country and our nation. For this reason, they do not pay attention to our tactics, our ways, and our positions, and they always have a reactive attitude toward the Islamic Revolution.

We see that one day Saddam announces we will move back to recognize international borders. The very next day Iraq bombs 17 of our economic and nonmilitary sites. The next day, it takes off its military uniform and puts on a suit and says: We are following the path of peace. The next day it sends five of its Army divisions inside our Islamic homeland and occupies some border regions. The next day it announces: We will declare a cease-fire at such and such an hour. [passage omitted]

The things that Saddam is doing today are the result of his supporters' lack of policy. This in itself is the reason for the acceptance of the resolution and to what extent the acceptance of Resolution No 598 has been detrimental to the two superpowers.

On the basis of some information I received before coming to this meeting, which I obtained from studying whar foreign newspapers and radios are saying, European countries are almost uniformly pleased and glad. Asian countries are pleased. African countries are pleased, as are some countries in the region. We see something contrary to this in the opinions and positions of the United States. They say that Iran's acceptance of the resolution may be a tactic and we should not make any hasty decisions, in spite of the fact that his eminence the imam said this was not a tactic. We accept this and we speak sincerely to the people. They know the imam has the last word, but, at the same time, because they are not pleased with the position we have adopted, they say such things.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has recently announced that the representatives of Iran and Iraq should come to the Soviet Union and negotiate with each other. This should take place under the Soviet flag. In this way the Soviet Union wants to give the appearance that it is impartial in this war, and to take advantage of this opportunity to be in a position to use its influence on both countries. The point is that not only are they not impartial in this war but, by their blatant and hidden support for the Baghdad regime, they have encouraged Saddam to commit many of the crimes he has comitted and therefore, the Russians are a partner to and share in Saddam's crimes.

As I said, in the not so distant future the splendid effects of the acceptance of this resolution will become clear. From now on, it is the responsibility of the Security Council. One year ago, it proposed that we accept the resolution and we accepted it in accordance with the interests of our country. Why then do you not establish a cease-fire? Why do you not reproach Saddam for these crimes he is committing? Why do you not prevent Saddam from doing the things he is doing? At least, why do you not condemn him?

The Security Council's duty is to reproach Saddam for the things he is doing and to prevent him from doing them. UN representatives have come and Foreign Ministry officials have been discussing issues with them. What they want to know is the latest developments taking place on the battlefronts and they want to get closer to the borders in order to supervise the cease-fire. Our people are anxious and they have certain expectations of us. They ask: Because you accepted Resolution No 598, why do you not ask the UN secretary general to act decisively here?

I declare here and now and may the voice of the people reach the secretary general's ears: Our people are anxious. They say: If you sincerely want the resolution to be accepted and implemented carefully, if Saddam is telling the truth when he says he accepted it a year ago, then, as soon as we accepted the resolution, the Iraqi authorites sat quietly for 24 hours and made no statements. However, at that point they repeatedly bombed our economic sites, our industrial and work sites, and civilian areas. What is the meaning of this?

Although these things are harsh, evil, although we are assessing and analyzing and discussing these crimes committed by Saddam the past 8 years, the result is that a world that was regurgitating Saddam's braggings as a call for peace and issuing this through the mouthpieces and loudspeakers of the world now realizes what a criminal Saddam is. And the world is giving us the right

to fight such a criminal until he has been destroyed and punished. There are some intelligent people in the world, some impartial and unbiased people. When they see that Iran has accepted Resolution No 598 and at the same time they see that Saddam has in the course of 1 day has bombed 17 targets in Iran, they will say: What a criminal, what a creature he is; the people of Iran have the right to desire his downfall.

We now see that accepting the resolution will benefit us and that our enemies are on the defensive. They are making moves without any policy; they are giddy and by the time they come to their senses, time will be passing. Therefore, although we must endure these crimes being committed on the border regions and in border cities during the next few days, the results will be decisively in our favor.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Speaks to Clergymen at Fronts
NC2807065288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Telephone report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent—recorded]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council who is at the fronts of the war of good against evil, spoke to a group of clergymen and scholars stationed at one of the operational theaters. Referring to the presence of fighting clergymen at the fronts, Mr Khamene'i said: In our era, the combat uniform is valuable and a source of respect for the clergymen. Mr Khamene'i added that the clergymen play a determining role in the sensitive and dangerous phases of the revolution.

Fortunately, in this imposed war, which is one of the revolution's dangerous phases, the clergymen always were an active presence at the fronts. The martyred clergymen are living proof of this decisive presence on the fronts of the war between (?good) and oppression. Moreover, the warm breath of the clergymen on and behind the fronts has transformed the [words indistinct] of zealous people into invincible beings.

Addressing the clergymen present on the frontlines, the president spoke about the impact of their presence on the fronts, saying: The implementation of the divine duty that you, the clergymen, have carried out on the battlefields for long periods insures the honor and value of the clergy. Your presence of a few days on the battlefields is as effective as hundreds of years of scientific effort, and each action by you is a sign and proof of the healthy status of the larger clerical society.

Mr Khamene'i said: I always hope that my position and situation will allow me to be on the fronts constantly and to carry out the holy war by your side. You should know that if possible, I would not waste a moment.

In conclusion, the president referred to the role of the clergymen in meeting the moral needs of the fighters of Islam and said: Insuring morality, faith, and [words indistinct] is one of the duties that you, the men of the cloth, have on the fronts. All those who in one way or another (?believe and have faith) confess that on a battlefield faith is the greatest element leading to victory and that lack of faith produces defeat. Therefore, the role of the clergymen in boosting morale is a virtue and [words indistinct] and [words indistinct] is among the most basic elements of [words indistinct] on the battlfield.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in the operational theaters.

Southern Commander Claims New Iraqi Assault
NC2807060488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Mr Rahim Safavi, commander of operations in the south, by correspondent Afshar—live or recorded]

[Text] [Afshar] Mr Rahim Safavi?

[Safavi] Yes. Greetings.

[Afshar] Greetings. In view of the recent assaults by the Zionist regime and the rare resistance shown by the popular forces and the fighters of Islam, can you please tell our viewers about the latest situation on the southern fronts?

[Safavi] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. Greetings to the auspicious presence of the imam and to the auspicious presence of our noble and heroic nation.

Today is the 6th day that the brave children of our Islamic and heroic nation are heroically defending the southern region around Khorramshahr. Last night, in continuing the sacred defense and the extensive operation they carried out against the Ba'thist, Zionist forces north of Khorramshahr, our forces broke through our borders. Now the despicable enemy has been completely driven behind international borders by an extensive destructive operation carried out by divisions from the IRGC Ground Forces. The enemy has been thrown out of the region west of Khorramshahr; that is, from Hamid garrison, from the Khorramshahr highway, and from west of Khorramshahr itself.

More than six divisions of the Army that had attacked in this area closed the Khorramshahr highway and were heading for Khorramshahr have been completely crushed. During the past six 24-hour periods, these six enemy divisions were crushed, and many a large number of them were killed and many captured. In the last phase of the operation last night, the enemy's 12th Armored Brigade, the 2d Commando Brigade of the 3d Division,

and the 85th and 418th Brigades were completely—more than 70-80 percent—destroyed, while a large number of their armored materiel was taken by the IRGC Ground Forces.

However, the enemy still has designs on the heroic Khuzestan territory. We do not consider this crushing of the enemy and this aggression by the enemy as the last. We think that these aggressive operations will continue, particularly to the north of the Ahvaz area.

[Afshar] Mr Safavi, reports indicate that the popular forces have been and continue to be dispatched to the fronts in great numbers. Are the forces sent to the fronts sufficient to thwart the enemy's aggression, or are more forces needed?

[Safavi] We need the vast presence of our heroic people to defend not only the Khuzestan area, but also the entire territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the west to the south, particularly in the south. The enemy is still waiting to carry out its aggressive attack. The information that we have shows that the enemy intends to carry out an assault directed toward Khuzestan soon. As I am talking to you, we have recieved information that the enemy intends to again attack the areas in the (?province).

Thus, I ask all the fighters and all our heroic people, as well as all those who are ready to defend the revolution and the Islamic Republic, to carry out their duty to Islam and to the imam and to thwart, God willing, with their extensive presence this assault which the enemy intends to carry out again, just as they turned back the assault on Khorramshahr.

[Afshar] Thank you very much.

Commentary on Iraq's Motives for Invasion
LD2707141588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Along with the unprecedented dispatch of fighters to the fronts, operations to completely destroy the Iraqi war machine continue with might and superiority on the part of the Iranian forces. During the last few days, significant military successes have been achieved and repeated attacks by Iraqi forces on the southern fronts have been crushed.

At the same time, large areas which had been invaded on the southern front have been liberated, and our forces continue to liberate those areas still occupied by the enemy. The Muslim people of Iran are impatiently awaiting news of the final triumph and victory of the Islamic fighters. People are celebrating the victories achieved by their brave men who are continuing their ceaseless struggle for the total sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran within the country's recognized borders.

Furthermore, in the light of the nation's awareness of the evil intentions of the criminal enemy, people regard the present situation as extraordinarily sensitive and view the question of crushing the enemy's latest aggression as of prime importance. At the same time, the praiseworthy attention to the new war conditions by all strata, organizations, and scientific, executive, and support institutions has strengthened the idea that the enemy will be fail to reach its aims.

Right now many believe that Iraq's 'Aflaqi regime has committed another historic mistake, and the main factor responsible for this repeated mistake is Saddam's intoxication with the relative success of Iraqi forces in recent months. However, the practical consequence of his euphoria is the destruction of the Iraqi war machine once again, and the defeat and shame of the enemy forces.

Of course, the criminal Iraqi regime has claimed it does not intend to invade Iranian territory, and its recent operations were undertaken for the purpose of capturing more Iranian POW's. What refutes this enemy claim is the ever-expanding scope of its aggression, and its insistence on occupying militarily the occupied areas. News and reports arriving from the front tell of the Islamic fighters inflicting defeat on the enemy with their military might while continuing to liberate villages and towns in the occupied areas. If right now the fighters of Islam have consolidated their positions in vast areas of the southern and northern sectors of the war front, this has been due to their brave resistance and struggle.

The efforts that the Muslim people of Iran have displayed in their defense of the territory of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran [as heard] during the last 48 hours, has acted as a fatal blow against the mercenary forces of the United States and Saddam and defeated enemy conspiracies. During the fighting today and yesterday the Islamic fighters have killed or captured hundreds of hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] on the western front. According to the reports, the hypocrites have suffered irreparable losses.

Previous reports said that the hypocrites asked all their scattered sympathizers throughout the world to go to Baghdad in order to participate in the military plans, to coordinate with the strategy of Iraq's 'Aflaqi regime. However, these forces, who are under seige from the able hands of the powerful army of Islam, have been receiving crushing and fatal blows. Undoubtedly, this is again the direct consequence of the 'Aflaqi regime's repeated mistake in encroaching on Iranian territory, and it will add to the scope of defeat of the enemies of Islam within the current phase of the war.

What can be said about these victories and military achievements is that they all emanate from God's blessing and favor.

Reportage on Further Departures for Fronts

Groups From Cities, Districts

NC2707091188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Various parts of our Islamic homeland witnessed the departure of many groups of basijis to the fronts in response to the imam's guidance and the call by the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces.

According to Central News Unit correspondents, thousands of combatant basijis left for the fronts from Tehran, Shiraz, Esfahan, Mashhad, Qom, Tabriz, Arak, Ahvaz, Do Gonbadan, Sarab, Ardabil, Zanjan, Shahr-e Kord, Garmsar, Nahavand, Ghorbeh, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Yazd, Ardakan, Chah Bahar, Khorramabad, Borujerd, (Muhdas-e Lorestan), Al-Ashtar, Pol-e Dokhtar, Nurabad, Kashan, Qazvin, Takestan, (Rudbar-e Alamud), Avaj, Bo'in Zahra, (Sarom-e Sofla), Bandar-e Torkman, Sari, Gorgan, Rasht, Lahijan, Fuman, Astaneh, Ashrafiyeh, Hashtsar, Yasuj, Kohkiluyeh, Dehdasht, (Sirsakht), Bazm, Cherum, Landeh, (Bahma'i), and Zarqan-e Fars, as well as the (Masal-e Shanderman) District.

Volunteers From Provinces

LD2707131688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Summary] Hundreds of brave mobilization forces from Khorasan Province have rushed to the fronts. During the past week Khorasan has witnessed the dispatch of vast number of forces to the war.

A large number of fresh mobilization forces of Mazandaran Province, accompanied by the imam's representative in Mazandaran and a number of Friday prayer leaders and Majlis deputies of the province, today left Sari for the combat zones.

The dispatch of people's forces from Gilan Province and Rasht to the front of the war of right against wrong assumes new dimensions as the Iraqi aggression goes on. Today also, hundreds of fresh forces consisting of mobilization forces, IRGC personnel, and the Construction Jihad departed for the front.

Yesterday a large of number of fresh combat forces left Bijar for the combat zones. Also a large number of combat trained forces from Khuzestan Province went to the front this morning within the framework of the special convoy of holy Mecca.

This morning fighters of "His Holiness Muhammad Corps," comprising both Sunnis and Shi'as, left Zahedan for the trenches to defend the Islamic homeland.

Today also, for the second time in 3 days, a vast number of volunteer forces left from all over Kerman Province for the battlefields.

A large number of popular forces of mobilization forces and IRGC personnel of Kashan left their bases for the battlefields.

The speedy dispatch of fighters from Yazd Province also continues on a vast scale.

A large number of fighters from Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province left for the frontline in the framework of the "His Holiness Muhammad Corps."

Vast numbers of fighters belonging to the Construction Jihad of Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh went to the frontline.

The brave mobilization forces of Markazi Province today left for the battlefields as part of the program for the speedy dispatch of combat forces.

'Unprecedented Mass Mobilization'

LD2707195288 Tehran IRNA in English 1917 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—The fresh Ba'thist invasion has once again generated a giant wave of courage and self-sacrifice throughout the length and breadth of the Islamic homeland, providing to the world that Iran's proud Muslims are far from tired from their sacred defence.

Today, the sheer joys of marching to the war fronts is evident for the whole world to see. It evokes memories of the initial days of the Iraqi aggression almost 8 years ago, as people from every nook and corner of the Islamic Republic, from the valiant tribesman to the office workers have all girded up their loins to cleanse the country of the filthy Ba'thist invader.

Setting aside temporarily the pull of this mortal world, spuring away a life of ease and comfort, every able-bodied Iranian, young and old alike has donned combat fatigues to defend the country's soil.

Fathers, who in normal times would have fondled with their young ones, doting grandparents and even the tender hearts of the ever-affectionate mothers, all seem to be happily resigned to God's will for the sake of Islam and the country.

Iran today presents a scene of epic resistance as people from various walks of life vie with one another to march to the fronts. Bidding farewell to their loving families and friends of long standing, they are eager to drive out the coward enemy, which until now had feigned peace, or to attain martyrdom in the process.

From Ganaveh in the south to Azarbayjan-e Khavari in the northwest, Iran's brave combatants along with the ever-alert border tribesmen are humming the age-old ballad of liberty and resistance which they have sung for hundreds of years.

The unprecedented mass mobilization confirms the people's profound faith that defence of the Islamic homeland means the defence of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Bushehr, which provided a clue to the enemy's evil intentions—Iraqi air raid on the nuclear power plant a bare 24 hours after Iran's historic acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 (July 18)—has since been the scene of massive mobilization by all strata of society. Several battalions composed of workers, students, ulema and others have already left for the battle fronts.

On the central sector of the sacred defence against blasphemy, the combatant people of Bakhtaran, which bears the brunt of the Iraqi aggression, have proved their mettle by blunting the invader's initial success.

Other far flung provinces such as Semnan, Kerman, Yazd, Gilan, etc have all contributed their share to the war fronts, despatching special corps, mechanized divisions, Revolutionary Guards and Basijis.

The holy city of Mashhad, the site of Imam Reza's (A.S.) tomb—the 8th imam of Prophet Muhammad's (S.A.W.) infallible household—has witnessed massive mobilization over the past few days, while other towns and cities of Khorasan Province have not lagged behind in the defence of Islam and the country.

Qom, the city of blood and uprising, from which the Islamic Revolution first burst forth on the world scene 25 years ago—following Imam Khomeyni's arrest by the defunct shah's regime in 1963—is again at the forefront. Turbanned ulema and theological students have for the moment discarded the traditional robes and are heading for the battle scenes with guns on their shoulders.

If men and young boys have shown an enthusiasm for the sacred defence, valiant committed women have certainly not been mere spectators. Iran's Muslims women have set an example for the whole oppressed world. They have not only encouraged their sons and husbands to take up arms, but have also declared their own readiness to serve behind frontlines as volunteers.

Every beat on the drum that is played daily by the radio sounds a death knell for the Ba'thist aggressor and inspires the Muslim combatants to new heights of glory and heroism, promising to the nation that the hour of total victory is at hand.

Surely Allah has assured victory for the believers and without doubt Saddam Husayn will certainly meet the same fate that befalls all aggressors.

Forces From Kerman

LD2707191388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Summmary] A large group of mobilization forces left Kerman for the fronts today. This is the second group of volunteers leaving from this province in the last 3 days. A group of mobilization forces and IRGC personnel left Minab this morning for the front. Over the past 24 hours, a large number of popular mobilization forces left Kazerun for the fronts.

Hundreds of mobilization and IRGC forces and forces from government offices and tribes, who are being sent to the front again, left from Fasa and Mamasani, while hundreds of volunteers also left from Farrashband and Gerash today.

A large group of forces left (Firzuabad) for the fronts this afternoon, while a group of Gendarmerie personnel from Esfahan also left for the fronts today with all their equipment.

A group of West Azerbayjan IRGC committee personnel left Orumiyeh for the fronts today.

Medical Schools Closed

LD2707192188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Health Ministry has announced: With regard to the overwhelming desire of medical students to go to the battlefields, all medical schools—except for clinical courses at the medical and nursing schools which must remain efficient to enable the hospitals to be ready to accept the wounded—are hereby closed until further notice. Courses in midwifery and family health will continue.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique on Latest Fighting

LD2707123188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 JUl 88

[Communique issued by General Command of the Armed Forces]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There is no might greater than that of the Almighty. God-seeking ummah of Islam! Combatant and courageous nation! At these moments of relentless battle by your self-sacrificing sons, Army troops, IRGC, mobilization forces, and the brave tribes of the country against the aggressor enemy, the frontlines are witnessing the unprecedented selflessness of a nation firmly determined to preserve its pride, will, and independence.

Following the dazzling victories of the past few days by the fighters of Islam on the southern and western fronts of the country, which resulted in the liberation of some

regions of our dear homeland and the retreat of the aggressor enemy—many of whom were killed—early today the IRGC fighters, in order to destroy the enemy war machine and totally foil the aggressors in the border region to the north of Khorramshahr, attacked from many sides the positions of the enemy units and drove them back accross the border strip.

In these surprise operations, the selfless IRGC fighters, accompanied by the brave mobiliztion forces and tribes of Khuzestan, cleared 30 sq km of our Islamic homeland from the filthy presence of the Saddamists. Moreover, they inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the aggressor enemy. The Islamic fighters, while storming the positions of the 8th Army Mechanized Division, the 12th Armored Brigade, the 2d Commando Brigade, and three tank battalions named "Al-Mu'asim," the ("Al-Utaybah"), and the "Al-Qadisiyah," and the 3d Mechanized Battalion of the 1st Army Division of the Iraqi Army, succeeded in fully encircling an enemy brigade and totally destroying it. During the destruction of this brigade, more than 1,500 more troops of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

Today the forces of Islam's Army in a successful operation attacked the positions and fortifications of the 85th Brigade of the 8th Army Division of the Iraqi Army in the general region of Shalamcheh, and completely destroyed a battalion of that brigade. They killed or wounded more than 300 troops of the aggressor enemy's forces and captured dozens of troops. During this operation, dozens of tanks and personnel carriers and other armor and equipment of the 80th Brigade of the Iraqi Army were destroyed and set ablaze by the anti-armor units of the IRGC and the fast-flying eagles of the Army Aviation Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic, flying their fighter-bombers, in 13 separate missions, at 0535, 0547, 0555, 0608, 0735, 0750, 0855, 0914, 0953, 1019, 1005, 1148, and 1150 today, heavily bombed the positions and armored units' concentration sites of the Iraqi army in the southern and western operational sectors of our Islamic homeland. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamists, they all returned safely to base.

The air-defense units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, at 1101 and 1130 today targeted two aggressor Iraqi aircraft in the western and south-western region of our country, and blew them up in the sky. In the western operational sector also, following the crushing of the Iraqi aggressor forces and the mercenaries affiliated with global arrogance, the aggressor forces of the Ba'thist Iraqi army, deploying and regrouping the remainder of their forces, once again penetrated the city of Eslamabad-e Gharb but encountered the resistance of the self-sacrificers of the army of Islam and the brave tribes of the western region of the country, and suffered heavy losses. Battle in this region is continuing with the utmost intensity, the initiative lying with the fighters of Islam.

The mighty forces of Islam, continuing their operations in the western part of the country and killing hundreds of Saddamists on the Mehran, Salehabad and Gilan-e Gharb fronts, have destroyed dozens of enemy tanks and personnel carriers.

[Signed] The General Command of the Armed Forces

Iraq Drops Chemical Bombs

LD2707161588 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 27, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on a residential area in Chahar Zabar District near this western city Tuesday, wounding several civilians.

Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Ilam Sites

LD2707171688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 JUl 88

[Text] Aircraft of the Iraqi aggressor regime bombed civilian areas of district of (Eyvan-e Gharb) in Ilam Province at 1140 (local) today. According to an IRNA report, four people were martyred and five wounded and immediately taken to hospitals. The martyrs consisted of two children, a housewife, and an elderly man.

In addition, Iraqi aggressor aircraft continued their acts of mischief by violating the airspace of the cities of Marivan, Sanandaj, and Bakhtaran Provinces at 1029, 1223 and 1350 respectively today. According to the IRNA report, the enemy aircraft encountered anti-aircraft fire and were forced to leave the region. Upon fleeing, they broke the sound barrier over the cities Marivan, Bakhtaran, Paveh, and [words Indistinct].

Communique Updates Fighting

LD2707185988 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—A large group of Iraqi forces were killed and wounded and 20 others including two officers captured when Iran's Muslim combatants repelled an attack launched by enemy Commando Brigade 1 of Sixth Corps in Hawr al-Hawizah region on Wednesday.

General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces announcing the above said some Iraqi boats carrying munitions were also destroyed and several others seized intact by the Iranian combatants.

In western operational regions, it added, heavy clashes continued with Iranian combatants having the upper hand.

The Iranian forces storming Iraqi positions in and around Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Karand-e Gharb and heights near Eslamabad-e Gharb beseiged Iraqi soldiers and

members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e (Hypocrites) Khalq organization (MKO) affiliated to global arrogance. Hundreds of enemy forces have so far been killed.

Elsewhere in the western fronts, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) units together with Iranian Army aviation service (Havaniruz) set ablaze 157 tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy Wednesday afternoon. Heavy clashes are still raging on in the region with Iranian combatants holding the upper hand.

Helicopter-gunships of Havaniruz flew 120 tactical and logistical missions Wednesday providing air cover for infantry forces and destroying enemy equipment. Iranian Air force pilots pounded Iraqi positions and fortifications during four sorties Wednesday afternoon.

'Heavy Blows' Inflicted on Iraq

NC2807050088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Dear listeners: Before continuing with our newscast, please listen to a report that we have just received. Last night the fighters of Islam inflicted heavy blows on the aggressive enemy and mercenaries of world arrogance in continuation of the Marsad operations in the west of the country. We will broadcast more details immediately after they are received.

'Important' Pass Liberated

LD2807082688 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Western Operational Region, July 28, IRNA—The strategically important 'Imam Hasan' pass in Eslamabad-e Gharb, western Iran was cleared from the invading Ba'thist forces Wednesday night.

The Muslim forces of Iran in continuation of their operations also inflicted heavy losses and damage on Iraqi forces in the region. A number of enemy tanks, personnal carriers and other equipment were destroyed and some others were taken intact.

The Iranian forces are continuing their fight against enemy troops to completely repel them from areas under their occupation.

Iraqi, MKO Forces 'Crushed'

LD2807083488 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Western Operational Region, July 28, IRNA—Iraqi troops and the outlawed Monafeqin-e Khalq (MKO) sustained over 4,000 casualties in two days of battles Wednesday and early Thursday, in the Eslamabad-e Gharb general operational region.

Iran's Muslim forces have reportedly crushed the resistance of aggressor enemy troops and their MKO mercenaries (outlawed mujahidin) in this operational region in the early hours today. Remnants of the enemy troops are surrounded by Iranian combatants and heavy fighting is raging between the two sides.

Air Force jet fighters and the Army's Civil Aviation Service (Havaniruz) helicopters in tens of sorties heavily pounded enemy troop concentration and armored sites in the area inflicting heavy losses on them.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions

LD2807091188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0850 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O warrior nation of Islamic Iran, listen: According to reports received from the Ambush [Marsad] operational zone, the brave and selfless pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force carried out four separate sorties at 0635, 0650, 0854, and 0955. They bombed heavy concentrations of armored units of the aggressive Ba'thist Army of Iraq and the mercenaries of the world arrogance. After inflicting heavy damage and casualties on the enemy, they returned safely to their bases.

Helicopter Missions Noted

LD2807093588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0919 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The brave and ever-victorious pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airborne Ground Forces [Havaniruz] this morning valiantly carried out more than 75 tactical, supply, and support missions with their helicopters. They have carried out important tasks in preparing the groundwork for an early victory by the Islamic forces.

Iraqi Forces Surrounded

LD2807100788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0902 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Unscheduled annoucement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Iran, listen: According to reports received from the General Command Headquarters, heavy blows have been delivered to the war machine of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army during operations in the western region of the country, which resulted in the liberation of parts of the Islamic homeland.

The courageous units of the IRGC and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army have pounded the positions and fortifications of the enemy. The enemy is now surrounded. The infantry, commando, and armored units of the Sarallah 41 Special Brigade of Shohada, the special IRGC 6th Division, the 71st Ruhollah and 32d Ansar al-Husayn Divisions, the special IRGC Commando Division, the XXXI Ashura, IV Ba'sat, and IX Badr Corps, together with Iranian Army units, including the

84th Khorramabad Division, the 81st Bakhtaran Armored Division, the 58th Zolfaqar Division, the 55th Airborne Brigade, and also the selfless guards of the Islamic Committees, succeeded in destroying the enemy's equipment and bunkers.

Several Ba'thist forces were killed before the remainder retreated. Fighting in the western region continues, with the Islamic fighters having superiority. They will fight until the aggressive forces of Iraq are destroyed or driven out of the sacred territory of proud Iran.

Communique on Recent Victories

LD2807114888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jul 88

[General Command Headquarters communique issued 28 July]

[Text] In the course of the victorious operations by the fighters of Islam, which culminated in the liberation of parts of our Islamic homeland's territory, the enemy sustained heavy blows. Last night and today, numerous enemy units were routed by the selfless IRGC forces.

Infantry, armored and commando units, and the special IRGC forces carrying out the victorious (Marsad) operations, smashed the positions and fortifications of the aggressor Iraqi Army and their mercenaries, who are affiliated to global arrogance, in the Eslamabad area. After heavy fighting they surrounded the remaining enemy forces. The heroic defenders of the Islamic homeland and revolution, in this battle of self-sacrificing epics, killed or wounded over 4,000 enemy troops and mercenaries of global arrogance. In the course of these successful operations, the troops of Islam attacked enemy positions and cleansed the Hasanabad Valley and the Emam Hasan pass in the Eslamabad region from the filthy presence of the aggressors.

In the course of today's engagements, 10 tanks, 50 vehicles, and hundreds of heavy guns and other enemy armor were destroyed by IRGC units. Tanks, personnel carriers, and other enemy vehicles were taken intact by the fighters of the monotheistic Army.

The fast-flying fighter-bomber pilots of the Air Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today carried out 12 separate missions, at 0635, 0650, 0854, 0955, 0957, 1041, 1050, 1100, 1200, 1215, 1230, and 1240. They bombed troop and armored equipment positions of the aggressor Iraqi forces in our country's western operational sectors. After inflicting heavy losses and casualities on the enemy, they returned safely to base. Army Aviation Force pilots, carried out 118 helicopter sorties to assist the infantry and IRGC commando forces, inflicting heavy blows on the enemy.

The victorious operations of the troops of Islam are continuing. The courage and steadfastness of the fighters of the infantry, armored and commando units, the special IRGC force, with the cooperation of some Islamic Revolution Committee units, the Army, and popular forces, have the initiative. Our forces and the fighters of Islam are delivering heavy blows to the enemy forces, who are suffering heavy losses.

Navy Monitors Gulf Shipping

LD2707190388 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Iran's naval units during their routine patrol missions along coastal and international waters Tuesday, monitored shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, reconnoitering two foreign oil tankers. The Air Force lent effective support to the Navy, identifying 34 vessels of various types.

At the northern tip of the Persian Gulf the Navy controlled movement of two Iraqi vessels trying to proceed from Khawr 'Abdallah towards Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms.

Tehran Turkish Reports Detentions in Mecca

NC2807081988 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] According to a report we received following a demonstration in Mecca yesterday by hundreds of pilgrims from Turkey, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan and from a number of Western countries and Gulf states, the police in Mecca attacked various buildings housing pilgrims from Kuwait and Turkey. After searching the buildings, the police detained a number of the pilgrims.

The same report said that the Saudi regime has employed 3,000 security personnel from Egypt, 6,500 from Turkey, and 7,500 from Morocco in order to suppress the pilgrims during the current month of pilgrimage. Meanwhile, regardless of the month of pilgrimage, a large number of hotels and houses available for rent in Mecca are empty.

Planning Minister Details Talks in Romania

LD2307100288 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—Iran's minister of plan and budget Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani returned home Saturday morning from a visit to Bucharest where he signed a dls 1.180 billion trade protocol.

Zanjani attended the sixth session of joint Iran-Romania Economic Commission in Bucharest.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival he said in talks with Romanian officials the previous protocol was reviewed and a new one in industrial and trade fields was signed.

He said Romania will purchase dls. 560 million worth of oil from Iran, 2.5 million tons of which will be oil products. Moreover it will buy dls. 30 million of non-oil goods from Iran.

More on the four-year protocol, he told reporters, it calls for production of 24,000 of tractors.

The two countries will also cooperate in production of Renault automobiles in Iran and a team of Romanian technical experts will visit Iran in the next three months for studies.

On new Romanian investments in Iran he said Iran proposed building of rubber industries, ship building, and date packaging industries. Romania will study the ventures which will be in the form of buy back (paying the expenditure after they start production) and will inform Iran.

Zanjani said that he also met with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and submitted a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran. He added that Romania has expressed its readiness for reconstruction work in post-war Iran. This will be possible if the present problems between Iran and Romania [as received] are solved, Zanjani added.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Urges Support of Accord With India

BK2707113888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] President Jayewardene, speaking on the eve of the first anniversary of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, posed a question as to what would happen if the peace treaty was abolished. Inaugurating the third dry dock in the Colombo harbor, the president said that though certain groups were agitating for the abolition of the treaty, no one has suggested as to what should take its place.

Explaining the policies of the dissenting group, Mr Jayewardene said that the DMK in India feels that Sri Lanka should be a federation of states like in India. The LTTE believes that the north and east should be one separate independent state. On the other hand, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] is for a federation. It says that the government should not be duly elected but a one party government created through violence.

Analyzing the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, SLFP, the president said that they want to abolish provincial councils and go back to the old system.

Mr Jayewardene stressed that if the treaty is abrogated and the Indian Army leaves Sri Lanka, there will be a new war since the LTTE will continue its campaign and the other terrorist organizations, which have accepted the treaty and agreed to join the democratic mainstream, will also start a campaign. In the ensuing war it will be our people who will get killed. Our men will be forced to go back to the north and east to fight a futile war for purposes which have now lost their meaning. In this context the abolition of the treaty is a daydream of people who do not understand the real situation in the country.

The president said that he is hoping to hold provincial council elections in the north and east in a few weeks time. He said except for those who want this conflict to continue, all others must support the accord. Those who have staked peace and the welfare of the country should accept some mix which is already part of history. [sentence as heard]

Tamil Separatists Murder 14 Sinhalese Farmers

BK2807062288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil separatist guerrillas hacked 14 Sinhalese farmers to death Thursday in northeastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman here said. The victims were among 16 Sinhalese farmers from Welioya village who had gone to a nearby jungle to gather firewood, the spokesman said.

He said two farmers escaped with serious injuries. Residents found the bodies of the others tied to trees, the spokesman said, adding that further details were not immediately available.

Indian Forces Apprehend 15 'Terrorists' 26 Jul

BK2707114088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1051 GMT 27 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Fifteen more terrorists were apprehended in search operations conducted by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] yesterday, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said that 10 terrorists were captured in the Meyankolla and Vadamunai areas in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector.

Two terrorists, Raghunath and Murugandav in Vandaramoolai and a hardcore terrorist, Ganesamurthy alias Paya, in an area 2 km north of Batticaloa town were apprehended by the Indian troops in an operation in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector.

In the Trincomalee sector, the IPKF had recovered one shotgun at Pankulam.

A report from the Wanni sector states, there had been a blast in an area 1 km south of Madhu camp. There were no casualties to the IPKF. On searching the area one improvised explosive device (IED) was recovered by the troops.

Indian troops had encountered the terrorists in an area 7 kilometres south of Nedunkerni in the Wanni sector. One suspect was caught.